AIA

thly bulletin, michigan society of architects - american institute of architects

No. 1

Vol. 27

Jan. 1953

COMPARE dim desk-top lighting, glare from fixtures, harsh contrast between light and dark room areas with the . . .

SAME OFFICE after Planned Lighting, designed by Edison Lighting Engineers, had been installed by Gray Electric Co., Inc.

Case Study No. 4

Planned Lighting raises office* efficiency

PROBLEM: Despite bright, glaring fixtures, the light intensity on these desks was only seven footcandles, instead of the recommended 50, which is standard.

Visual discomfort existed because of the sharply contrasting light and dark areas.

SOLUTION: 45 footcandles of uniform, lower brightness lighting from large area fixtures is virtually shadow-free. Eye-comfort — and efficiency — were improved by repainting dark wainscoting, woodwork, columns and counter.

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*Calvert Lithographing Co., Detroit.

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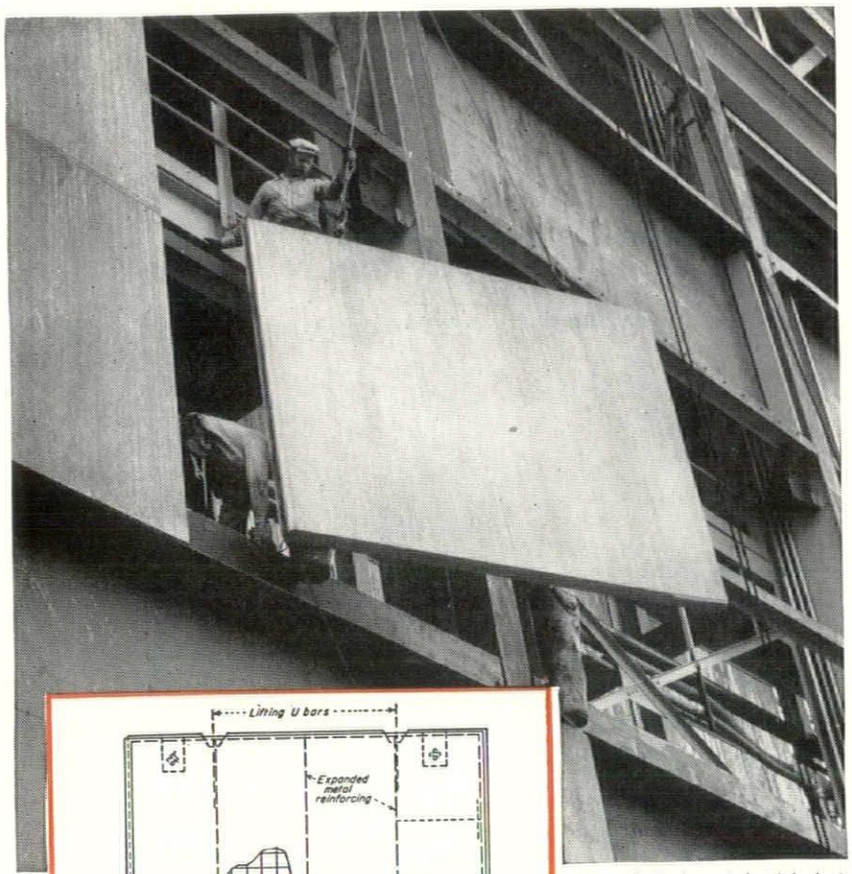
in the U.S.A.
a new regime
in the M.S.A.
and the hope
to come with
the new year
to encourage
the desire to
do good unto
others and to
bring peace
to the world

C. Allen Harlan



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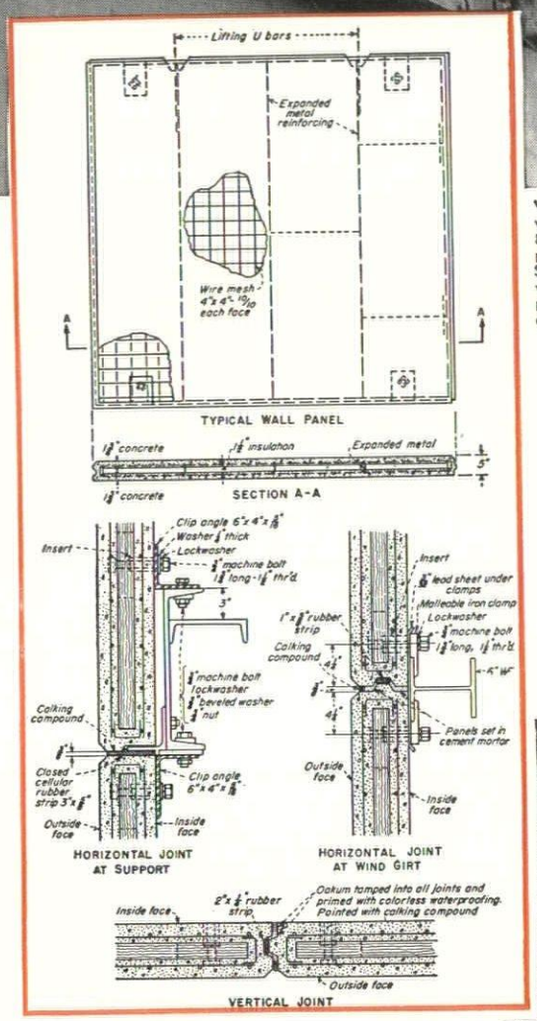
Walls of this huge industrial plant were erected at the rate of five 8' x 10' panels an hour, at a completed wall cost of approximately $2.25 to $2.50 per sq. ft. Cost varies slightly depending on shipping distance from plants, standardization in panel sizes, etc.



Above: Wall panel details show panel construction and method of joining slabs. Courtesy of Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc.

Whatever the weather—cold or hot, wet or dry—you can start that new plant, now, and finish it ahead of schedule, with MARIETTA "sandwich" wall panels . . . and trim costs as much as 30% under comparable masonry construction! Yes, these large, easy to handle panels actually cut labor and application time . . . close in large areas quickly . . . bolt directly to building framework and go up in half the time required to erect conventional walls.

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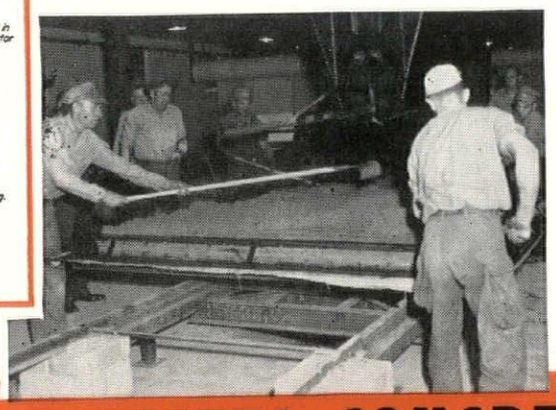

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first edition—what it is

The first edition of a book . . . a stamp . . . an etching achieves a distinction and a value generally unequaled by other issues.

In a sense, this appreciation and recognition represent a just reward for the thought, the originality, the courage and tireless effort required to be a pioneer . . . to produce a first.

Throughout the past twenty-six years the Bulletin has served its constitutents with uniformtiy born of a design, a format, a cover that seemed appropriate enough . . . yet times have changed and so has design.

While we make no apologies for what we have been producing, we are mindful of the adage,

"Be not the first by which the new is tried, nor yet the last to cast the old aside."

Alexander Girard, A.I.A., of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, as chairman of a special committee to redesign the printed matter of the A.I.A. in Michigan, has had the able support of Morris Jackson, A.I.A., of the office of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers. The two have been working with the editor for months.

Why are these men concerning themselves with this?

In the hope that somehow, sometime, somewhere a little bit of beauty may result. They are, therefore, willing to "labor in the vinyard" of their profession . . . we hope you like the results.

Sandro has redesigned this issue of the Bulletin . . . from cover to cover, including both editorial matter and advertising.

In future issues, various architectural offices will be given the opportunity to design covers for issues featuring their work . . . and also to layout the sections devoted completely thereto.

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Michigan Society of Architects 1953

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FEBRUARY—ALDEN B. DOW
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APRIL—ANNUAL M.S.A. ROSTER (Alphabetical)
MAY—SAGINAW VALLEY A.I.A.
JUNE—WESTERN MICH., A.I.A.
JULY—EERO SAARINEN & ASSOCIATES
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OCTOBER—ANNUAL M.S.A. ROSTER (Geographical)
NOVEMBER—DETROIT CHAPTER, A.I.A.
DECEMBER—LEINWEBER, YAMASAKI & HELLMUTH

monthly bulletin, michigan society of architects

MONTHLY BULLETIN
Michigan Society of Architects
Combined with NATIONAL ARCHITECT
120 Madison Avenue Detroit 26, Michigan

Official Publication of the Michigan Society of Architects: Linn C. Smith, President; Charles B. McGrew, 1st Vice-president; Adrian N. Languis, 2nd Vice-president; Paul A. Brysselbout, 3rd Vice-president; Ralph W. Hammett, Secretary; Elmer J. Manson, Treasurer; Directors — Roger Allen, L. Robert Blakeslee, Phillip C Haughey, Sol King, Ralph W. Knuth, James B. Morrison.

The name "Monthly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects" is owned by Monthly Bulletin, Inc., a subsidiary of the Michigan Society of Architects, a Michigan non-profit corporation. Otherwise owned by Talmage C. Hughes, F.A.I.A., founder (1926), editor and publisher, Executive Secretary of the Society and of the Detroit Chapter, The American Institute of Architects.

Edited and published under the direction of Monthly Bulletin, Inc.; James A. Spence, President; Adrian N. Languis, Vice-President; Carl J. Rudine, Secretary-Treasurer. Talmage C. Hughes, Resident Agent.

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1953 Midsummer Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, August 6-8, 1953. Clarence H Rosa, Chairman.

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Address all inquiries concerning National Council of Architectural Registration Board to William L. Perkins, Secretary-treasurer, 736 Lucas Ave., Chariton. Iowa.

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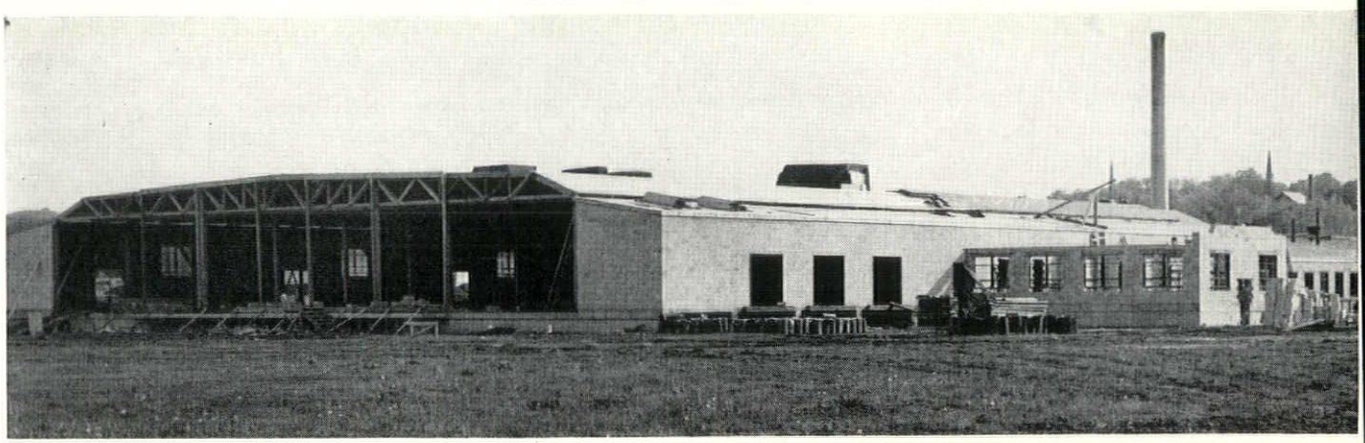
ROOF TRUSSES



Construction view of warehouse recently completed by Brockport Cold Storage Co., at Mt. Morris, N. Y.

by Cartwright & Morrison, Inc., Holcomb, New York

• Main Building is 168 ft. by 211 ft. with plant wing 45 ft. x 45 ft. and office space 33 ft. x 45 ft. Enclosure consists of corridors 16 ft. wide down each side, separately framed and separated from the storage proper by a 6-inch wall of cork. Roof structure of storage space is in three 44 ft. bays, with columns 16 ft. apart. Trusses are spaced 8 ft. o. c. with two-inch d & m decking spanning from truss to truss. Cork insulation was laid on top of decking. Use of timber roof trusses eliminated sway bracing between trusses and freed additional space for storage. Length of the building was reduced 16 ft. for equivalent number of pallets stored, as compared to steel construction.

Plans and specifications for the structure were prepared, and construction supervised, by H. E. Pulmer and Associates of Buffalo, New York.

Entire roof structure including columns and decking was furnished and installed by Cartwright and Morrison, Inc., of Holcomb, New York, for the sum of $51,750.00, or $1.32 per sq. ft. of floor area.

Contract for roof structure and deck was awarded April 1, 1952, and work was completed in place on May 26, 1952, eight weeks elapsed time.

MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVE
NOBLE F. CARR, MANUFACTURERS' AGENT, 616 FARWELL BUILDING, DETROIT 26, MICH.

MSA

thirty-ninth annual convention

james b. morison, general chairman

march 11-13, 53
detroit

committee chairmen

arrangements ..... suren pilafian
publicity ..... sol king
registration ..... edward g. rosella
entertainment ..... cornelius l. t. gabler
program ..... lyall h. askew
product exhibits ..... stewart s. kissinger
competition exhibits ..... jack k. montieth
house exhibit ..... louis g. redstone
design ..... e. john knapp
advisory ..... sol king, l. m. bauer, t. c. hughes

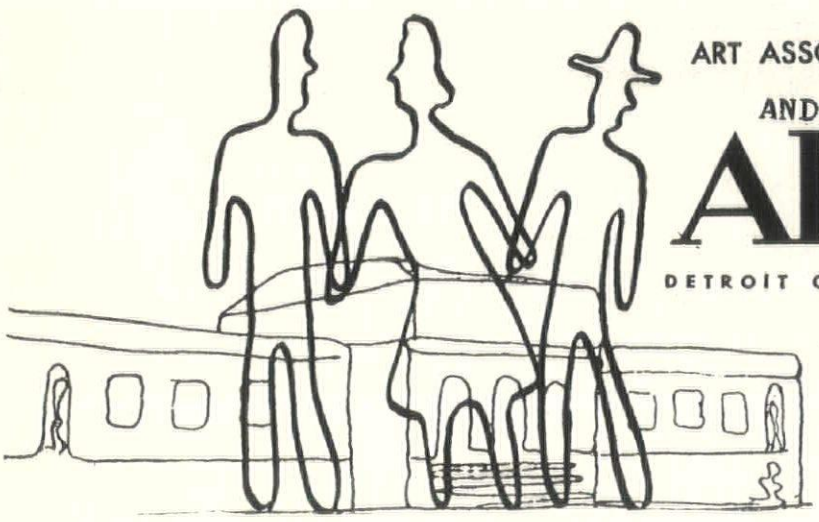
tentative program

wednesday, march 11—registration, social function, beginning afternoon.

thursday, march 12 —breakfast and delegates' caucus.
meeting of board of directors
annual business meeting
luncheon, afternoon speaker, cocktail party, dinner and speaker

friday, march 13 —tour, g. m. research center, luncheon, afternoon speaker, building industry banquet

architects are invited to submit designs for the exhibit, "the architect's own house" (fuller details later), also to enter the kirlin lighting competition.



THE METROPOLITAN
ART ASSOCIATION
AND
AIA
DETROIT CHAPTER

"Design in Advertising"

Lester Beall

Wednesday, January 14, 1953

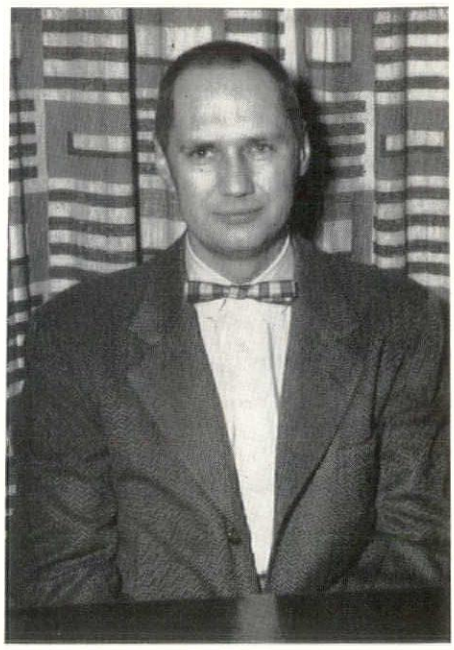
at 8:30 P. M.

Art director and Industrial designer, Mr. Beall has received many awards and medals. His work in the field of advertising art has been exhibited and reviewed in periodicals extensively in this country and in Europe. He was educated at the Lane Technical School and the University of Chicago. Until 1935 he worked in Chicago; then moved to New York, where he operates his own office.

In the Auditrium of The Detroit Institute of Arts.

Admission by season ticket, or single tickets may be bought at box office at $1 each.

linn smith is president m.s.a.



Linn C. Smith, member of the Detroit firm of Eberle M. Smith Associates, Inc., was elected president of the Michigan Society of Architects at the recent annual meeting of the Society board held at Dearborn Inn. He succeeds Leo M. Bauer, also of Detroit, who had served two terms.

Other officers elected are Charles B. McGrew of Detroit, first vice-president; Adrian N. Langius of Lansing, second vice-president; Paul A. Brysselbout of Bay City, third vice-president; Ralph W. Hammett of Ann Arbor, secretary, and Elmer J. Manson of Lansing, treasurer.

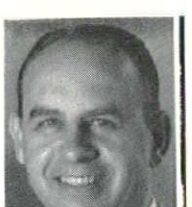
Directors, to serve in 1953, are Roger Allen of Grand Rapids, L. Robert Blakeslee of Detroit, Phillip C. Haughey of Battle Creek, Sol King of Detroit, Ralph W. Knuth of Flint, and James B. Morison of Detroit.

Smith, 35, who had served two terms as Society director, is the youngest president in the Society's 39-year history. He was born in Flint, Mich., and received his early education in Mt. Morris, Mich. He graduated from the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan in 1942, winning the George G. Booth Traveling Fellowship, enabling him to travel and study in Europe.

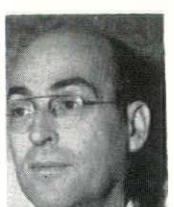
During World War II he was a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. In 1947 he became registered to practice architecture in Michigan, by examination, and he entered his own practice that year. He was chairman of the Society's 38th Annual Convention held in Detroit last March.

Smith lives in Birmingham, Mich.

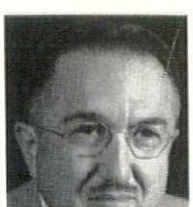
McGrew



Languis



Brysselbout



Hammett

Manson

McGrew, who resides at 16215 Warwick Road in Detroit, is with the office of Harley, Ellington & Day, Inc. He is proud of being a graduate of the University of Illinois. A director of the Society for the past two years he wrote "Organizing to Build," is now engaged in working out a group insurance program for the M.S.A.

Langius also served the past two years as a director, after having served as its president, and as president of the Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A. As Head of the Building Division of the State Administrative Department, he has made distinct contributions to a better understanding between the State as client and the architects.

Brysselbout, a graduate of Notre Dame, had previously served on the Board as representative of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, of which he is now president. He resides and practices in Bay City, specializes in educational buildings. He had been employed in the offices of Joseph C. Goddeyne; O'Dell, Hewlett & Luckenbach, and Harley, Ellington & Day.

Hammett, another who had been on the Society Board for two years, was first vice-president. He is a member of the faculty at the University of Michigan, College of Architecture and Design. He has been most valuable as chairman of the Society's Committee on Education and Research, charged with competitions and scholarships.

Manson has just retired as president of the Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A. During his administration the Chapter made distinct gains, is now one of the livest in the country. He graduated from Cornell University, won the Charles Goodwin Sands Medal. After foreign travel and study, he entered his own practice in 1918.

past president's message

My tenure of office with the Michigan Society of Architects, and my service on the Board has drawn to a close. During such service there have been a great number of matters presented to the Board for its discussion and decision. It is natural that there may be some items of business remaining unfinished, and my observation is that these can well be directed to the new Board for evaluation and disposal. I submit to you the following recommendations:

1. That new directors and officers be elected for Monthly Bulletin, Inc., in replacement of those whose terms have expired or are now expiring.
2. That the Board of Directors request a semi-annual financial report from the editor of Monthly Bulletin. Such should be carefully prepared by the editor, then evaluated by the Officers of the Monthly Bulletin, Inc., the latter making its recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Society.
3. That committee assignments be made forthwith, and in particular that the Administrative Committee submit to the next meeting its proposed budget for the Year 1953.
4. That the Board investigate the advisability of raising additional funds either through increased dues from the membership, through voluntary ananymous gifts, and curtailment of expense wherever possible. In that manner the existing public relations programme can be maintained, as well as continuing the services of the Society's special representative. Such a programme should be maintained without the further encumbrance of the special legislative fund, which the Society holds in trust.
5. That the Board discourage further architectural competitions for the immediate future, by reason of there perhaps having been too many during the past two years.
6. That the Board endorse the furtherance of the public relations programme coincident with that of the Institute, with particular emphasis of seeking a donor for a film strip and its installation in the school systems of Michigan.
7. That the Board encourage and delegate its officers and board members to speak at public assemblages whenever requested and wherever possible.
8. That conventions be maintained on the high standard of the past two years, particuarly seeking participation by exhibitors and producers in an even greater degree than during the past. If the public relations program is to be continued in the manner hoped for, any excess revenue will assist materially.
9. That the Board at all times thwart every effort made to amend Act 240, P.A. 1937 as amended, unless it be to the advantage of the profession. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the Board must maintain an attitude of great vigilance and militance in this regard.

Words fail me in expressing to all of you my very sincere appreciation for the fine co-operation from each member of the Board and the executive secretary during the time which I have been your servant. In these meetings we have provided the mechanics for the solution of difficult problems, and, I believe, to a degree of success.

I shall ever remember all of you gentlemen as my finest friends, and I shall never forget your courtesies and good fellowship. I shall ever be mindful of the responsibility which you entrusted to me, and I shall always be interested in the work of the new Board and those which follow through the years.

My thanks to the finest group of men in the world for everything which they have done, and which I can never forget. I wish each of you a most happy holiday season, prosperity, and longevity through the years, and that God may bless you always in all your undertakings and wherever you may be.

Your humble servant,
LEO M. BAUER,
Retiring President.

To elaborate further, I approach this moment with deep humility. If I had the choice of marching to Eternity with twelve other men, they would be none other than the members of the old Board and our executive secretary, so highly do I regard you all. During our intercourse of the past few years many problems have presented themselves, and sometimes we argued these to a solution in a discordant vein. Despite all this, let me tell all of you that you have responded nobly to my requests, and you have been more magnificent to me than I can express in words. No finer group of men ever lived, and, if you have not known heretofore, I tell you now in spoken word of the high esteem, respect, and love I hold for each one.

Many of us are told that the profession has been very good to us; in a greater measure, we should recognize that our blessings, either in the profession or without, come from the Supreme Being. Thus, each day we should bow our heads in thanks for all the blessings we have ever received. I thank Him for my association with each and all of you.

There is one matter on which I wish to comment in particular, and that is the very great excellence of the reports of our retiring secretary and treasurer. In all my experience I have never observed greater devotion to duty. The types of the reports which they have compiled, and the excellence of these chroniclers will perhaps not occur again, and so, I salute them.

I leave the duties of the presidency of this grand organization with little regret, though I do have an apology to make, which I have already privately made to one of you heretofore. Unbeknown to you gentlemen, mechanics were placed in operation to defeat certain measures important to all of us, and such might have been consummated had I pressed the matter to a conclusion. In my conscience finally, I could not undo the results of the grand work done by one or more of you, for to have done so would have betrayed you and those whom I had appointed to carry out your ideas. In the end I was faithful to your convictions and decisions, though I may not have agreed with them.

To say that you have been in sympathy with my varied proposals is putting it very, very mildly. I wish you to know that I shall ever appreciate every little instance of courtesy extended to me by each one of you, and that memory I shall carry with me so long as I live. I can but hope that the incoming Board will be as generous in its effort to your new president as you gentlemen have been to me. Your generosity is matchless.

So much do I regard each one of you that my wish is father to the thought. As for me, I would like to join the members of a magnificent retiring Board in standing a "Death Watch" once each year until all of us are no more. With all my heart and soul I thank you most sincerely for all you have done for me, and what you have come to mean to me. May the Christ Child at this Holy Season bless in great bounty each of you and those who are near and dear to you. Goodbye to you all; and great good luck to each.

bertram reports

Some notes made by Neil C. Bertram, M.S.A. special representative, as he visited architects throughout the State. Names are on file at the Bulletin office.

Architect L: Violations don't bother us as much as chiseling from within our own ranks. (Shows me a letter from ..... soliciting a job from school board.) Now my client gave me this letter; we'd published that we had the job yet this sort of thing turns up. We have several letters of this sort; I believe in professional ethics and I hold mine high; such a thing as this makes me feel as though I'm being a fool. What does the architect do in such a case? Does the MSA take any steps? More power to the Society in its public relations endeavors; we'd back any movie of the type you're talking about. Hope the check will help. Ask Leo what he thinks of job pilfering.

Architect M: Violations? Do you mean ethically or otherwise? What about the "package" services that employ registered architects? How can those architects keep from having a prejudicial interest in any of their specs?

Architect O: It is refreshing to know that the Board members are aware of the need for intensified public relations. Today a person, place of business, product or profession amounts to only that which it is regarded by the general public. Certainly to provide light on our profession is intelligent. Too many people, and well educated ones, think architect equals blue prints. I hope my time on the TV show did a bit towards bringing the profession and the MSA into public view in a constructive manner. I'll be anxious to hear more as plans jell for the Fall education program and about the ideas for a movie program at the convention in N. Y.

Architect P: When I first came here I was appalled at the lack of public regard and respect for the profession; since practicing in Detroit, I've grown a bit resigned to the condition. What you outline sounds like the first sensible plan towards remedying this situation. The education program will be on a long-range basis but if a movie could be made the actual problem could be attacked through its showing. I sincerely hope that all goes well and this idea becomes a reality. I'll have a check to you before the 30th of this month; I heartily endorse all you've outlined.

Architect Q: Sorry I wasn't able to see you on the first call when the legislation issue was paramount; my son was here from college and at that time I was with him most of the while. I'm glad to hear you saw my two houses on..... Both are occupied now and look much better with landscaping. It's good news to hear of such progressive plans by the Society. I didn't get to attend much of the convention and didn't hear about talks to high school students. This is an admirible endeavor. I'm sure today's students would be eager audiences for what an architect would tell them and show them if visual aid is used. Such a program might well regain the home-building business from the builders that are literally milking it these days, and bring about a demand for honestly designed, constructed, and esthetically fine homes that stem from an architect's superior knowledge and training. Stop by on Friday and I'll try and have some money for this publicity program.

Architect R: Glad you could come back today; I've been meaning to write a letter to the Bulletin or the Board telling them how much I appreciate all they are doing for the benefit of the small architect up to this time, I always had the notion that the MSA was operating only for the big downtown offices; since this registration fight, the house competitions, what you tell of the public relations program, I feel that the Society is doing a big job for the little practitioner like myself.

It's the first time since I joined the MSA that I could hontestly say I think it is out to get things done and benefit the members. This may sound like a lot of hot air seeing I can't give any money today to back up my talk, but I sincerely mean it. If you'll give me a call towards the later part of the month, I shall try to have some cash to show that I appreciate a job well worth supporting.

Architect S: Thought Mackinac conference a terrific get-to-gether; particularily liked Dr. Cocking's talk as it entailed design. Didn't see the Fair exhibit but if it consisted of mostly rendering then the myth that architects just made pretty pictures was furthered. Thinks next year only actual photos of completed jobs or models should be used for an exhibit.

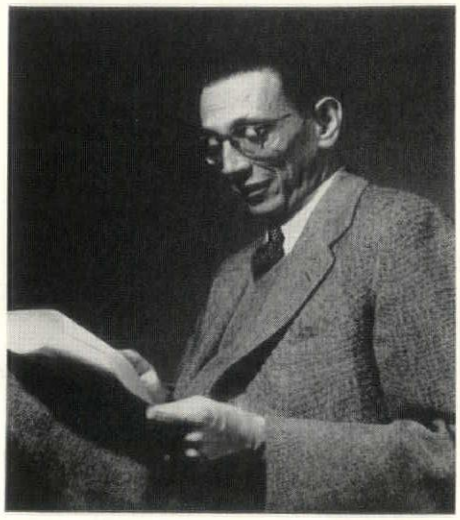
About contests: the competition only tends to cheapen an architect. Its really giving work away at about two bits an hour. If you say it's good public relations, then I say public relations must be achieved in another way. Doctors don't go about giving sample operations to impress the public. Suggestions for speakers: Norman Vincent Peale; for business meetings — seminars that are more interesting. The average architect is really not a good designer. I would like more discussions and speakers that concern purely design. Leo did an excellent job of getting to business at the Mackinac Conference. In the future have meetings shorter, more design-centered, and non-technical. This board has shown how alive a group we have. It has set a precedent as they certainly got things done.

Architect T: I got your two post cards. No one appreciates more what the Society is attempting to do for the individual registrant than I. It's just that I have to practically canvass the county for work now. I was sorry to hear Roebuck quit; he really followed through on the violation I gave you. Pleased that fringe architects, those far from Detroit, are getting a voice in things. Surprised that he should get two calls within a short time from Society representatives. Thinks the MSA is proceeding along right lines to better relations wtihin the profession as well as with the public.

Architect U: More legislation work could be used; tighten up the act this time to benefit architects and not builders. If there is money left, start something on our own this session. I feel there is too much Detroit emphasis by the Society. Why must the convention be held each year in Detroit? There are other cities in Michigan that could manage a convention and quite well too; maybe not as many night clubs or burlesques, but I bet the attendance would include a more representative group. Thought that the State Fair was a good idea and would see that he had a good house plan for next year's exhibit. Also wants this stamp to be adopted by the MSA; then any registered architect that used this stamp and signed it wouldn't have a leg to stand on when drawings not his own bore his state seal.

Even though I squak like a trooper, I think this Board can't be beaten, they all work as a team and the Society has had more outside recognition this year than ever before. Tell Leo he carries a big stick like Roosevelt.

detroit chapter meeting report



Edgar Kaufmann, Jr.

Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., distinguished consultant to the Museum of Modern Art in New York, was the speaker before the meeting of Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. on December 3. The lecture, sponsored by the Metropolitan Art Association, was held in the large auditorium of The Detroit Institute of Arts. The auditorium, seating 1000, was well filled.

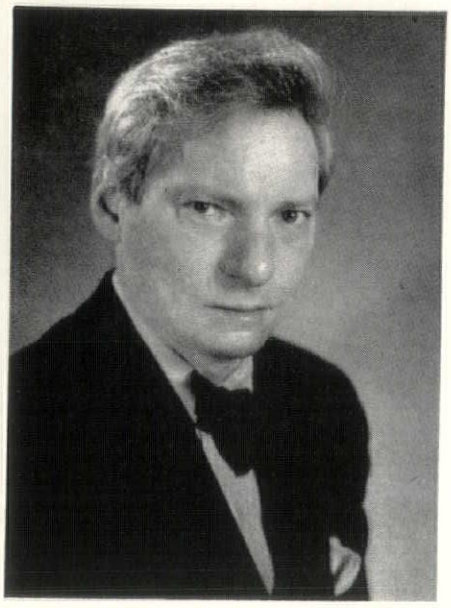
At a Chapter dinner preceding the program Mr. Kaufmann and W. Hawkins Ferry, Association president were guests. Chapter president Amedeo Leone presided at a brief meeting following dinner, and called upon Mr. Kaufmann for a few words. Mr. Kaufmann, whose father in Pittsburgh owns "Falling Waters," the house done by Frank Lloyd Wright, told some interesting stories about the building of the house and dealings with Mr. Wright.

Mr. Leone presented a certificate of corporate membership to Edgar Burr Joslin, and announced that the Chapter board had elected to associate membership Messrs. Edward H. Laird, landscape architect, and Egon Wiltschek. The president stated that many of the newly appointed Chapter committees had already made considerable progress, which had been reported to the board. Vice-president Suren Pilafian gave a brief of his report for the Civic Design committee. Mr. Leone also read a report from John K. Cross, chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Construction Industry, indicating that there are constructive things in the making for construction.

In the auditorium, Mr. Ferry stated that this year the Association was concentrating on three lectures instead of five, adding that they would cover a wide field of art. He announced that on January 14 Lester Beall would speak on "Design in Advertising," and on February 25 Daniel E. Schneider would discuss "Ethics and the Ego." Mr. Ferry explained the Metropolitan Art Association as a common meeting ground for all of the arts. It has for many years brought to Detroit outstanding speakers in the field of architecture and the allied arts. Mr. Ferry is honorary curator of architecture for The Detroit Institute of Arts.

(Continued on Page 10)

detroit chapter's next meeting



Louis I. Kahn, eminent architect and city planner of Philadelphia, Pa., will be the speaker at a meeting of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects on the evening of January 14.

The lecture, which will be in the auditorium of the Rackham Memorial Building at 8:00 P. M., will be preceded by a social hour at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30 in the same building. The lecture will be free and open to the public, and ladies are invited to the social hour, dinner and lecture.

Kahn, who graduated in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1924, has distinguished himself in the fields of architecture, city planning and housing. He was chief designer for the Sesqui-centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1925-26, following which he traveled and studied in Europe for two years. He was a designer for Paul Cret and for Zantzinger Borie & Medary, both firms in Philadelphia. The distinguished architect had wide experience in designing housing developments, both public and private, and he designed "The Rational City Plan" as part of the housing exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 1939. His professional connections have included associateships with George Howe, with Howe & Stonorov and a partnership with Oscar Stonorov. It was with the last-named that he did the War Town housing development at Willow Run, Mich. In his Detroit appearance, Mr. Kahn will take for his subject, "Traffic, a New Dimension in Civic Design.

(Continued from Page 9)

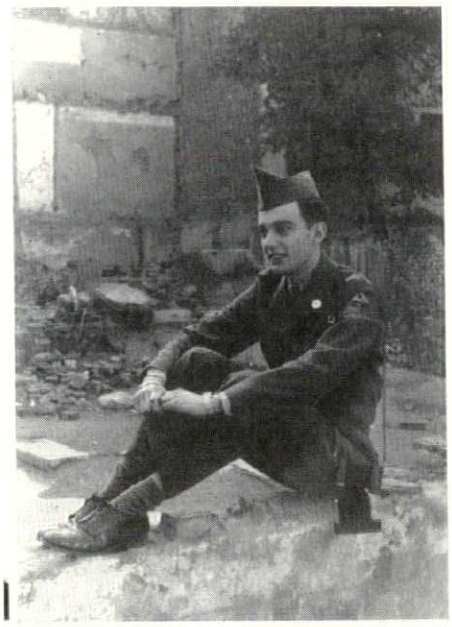
In introducing the speaker, Mr. Ferry stated that he was a native of Pittsburgh, who received his art education abroad and is now consultant to the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where he has directed several exhibitions of modern furnishings and other useful objects. He added that in 1950 Mr. Kaufmann was appointed director of the Good Design Exhibition held twice yearly at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Mr. Kaufmann, he said, is prolific writer and is now preparing a survey of buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, under Mr. Wright's direction.

Mr. Kaufmann began by saying that modern design is being attacked today by many who consider it nonsensical. This he could not understand and he proceeded with slides to show what seems to be the basis of modern design, indicating that it is not so capricious but has great respect for the past. Modern design, he said, is too rich and too old to warrant the abuse heaped upon it. His slides, beginning with one of the Morris chair, (circa 1866), brought out the fact that the motivating factor of designers has been to make the rooms people live in desirable and comfortable, with a sense of unity. Comparing the work of early designers with that of those who followed, the speaker said the title of his lecture might be "From Morris to Grpoius." He expressed the belief that improvement in the comfort of chairs was to come through better-designed frames rather than through the cushions used on them.

Mr. Kaufmann spoke for an hour and a quarter and then there was an interesting question-and-answer period. Asked what he thought of mass production of furniture, he said that he believed it could only be applied to such items as folding chairs and theatre seats, because these are about the only items that are in mass demand. Otherwise, he said, there can only be mass production of parts, to be assembled as needed.

While there was a large attendance at the lecture, that at the Chapter dinner was one of the smallest in many months. Perhaps the principal reason was its being held at a hotel where the price of dinner was much more than at our regular meeting place at the Rackham Building. As one member wrote on his card, "I consider this too high a price to pay for drinking privilege." This change had been tried as an experiment, because many had expressed the desire to meet where drinks could be served. Perhaps this is an indication that we had better stick to our tomato juice cocktails.

in germany



NICK DEMOS, formerly in charge of circulation for the Monthly Bulletin, now is attached to headquarters, U. S. 2nd Armored Division in Germany. He entered the service in February of this year, took his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and went overseas last August.

Nick writes that he is a clerk at division headquarters and is able to take secretarial training that will be useful to him when he returns to the Bulletin office.

move offices

HERMAN & SIMONS, Architects, have moved from the Transportation building to the David Stott building, 1150 Griswold St., Detroit 26. The telephone number remains the same — WOodward 2-8788.

ATTENTION: ARCHITECTS DETROIT METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND VICINITY

The undersigned committee, of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, which is now engaged in making a study for a proposed county building, is desirous of obtaining names of qualified architects interested in such a project.

To accomplish that purpose a questionnaire has been prepared and will be forwarded to all interested architects, upon request.

To receive consideration questionnaires must be executed and returned to this committee on or before January 8, 1953.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON A PROPOSED COUNTY BLDG.

H. Lloyd Clawson, Chairman
c/o Oakland County
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Frederick Potz

Frederick H. Potz, A.I.A., 57, member of the Detroit firm of Bodde-Benjamin Associates, Inc., Architects and Engineers, died on December 8, in University Hospital, Ann Arbor, where he had been confined for several months.

A native of Detroit, he was educated in public schools here and at the College of Architecture, University of Michigan. He had been with the office of Albert Kahn for 22 years and was in responsible charge of work for Ford, General Motors, Curtiss-Wright and Westinghouse. He had also worked with Merritt & Cole, Architects. He became one of the incorporators of the Bodde-Benjamin firm in 1948.

mrs. mary b. diehl

Mrs. Mary B. Diehl, wife of George F. Diehl, A.I.A., died at the family home, 17503 Monica St., Detroit, on December 17, after an extended illness.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Diehl is survived by two sons, Gerald G. Diehl, A.I.A. and Robert, and two daughters, Sister Alice Mary, I.H.M., and Mrs. John M. Haggerty.

The Rosary was recited for her at the home Friday morning, Dec. 19; services were held from the residence Saturday morning followed by mass at Gesu Church. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

mrs. cornelius languis

Mrs. Cornelius Languis, mother of Adrian N. Languis, A.I.A., Director of the Building Division of the State Administrative Department, died at her home in Zeeland, Michigan on December 16, at the age of 72.

Her husband, who had been with the State Police Maintenance Division for 15 years, recently retired. Other survivors, besides A. N. Languis, are a son, Manuel of Grand Rapids, and a daughter, Gertrude.

WANTED—Experienced job captain for large project, also capable designer, both for extended period — Ralph S. Gerganoff, 206 N. Washington, Ypsilanti, Mich.

Tennessee Valley Authority wants experienced architects for specification and design work on broad program of hydro and steam power plant buildings. Salaries start at $4450 and $5325 for 40 hour week. All jobs carry automatic within-grade increases for satisfactory service. Liberal vacation leave, sick leave, and retirement benefits. Location of work is Knoxville, Tennessee. Write the
Tennessee Valley Authority
Division of Personnel
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western michigan chapter

Gordon H. Stowe of Lansing, program chairman for Western Michigan Chapter's first meeting under its new administration, Dec. 17, conducted members and guests through the outstanding new Y.M.C.A. building in Lansing done by his firm, the Warren S. Holmes Company.

New president Peter Vander Laan prefaced the program with some of his rare good humor, informally promising that meetings this year would be free from the "I'm-reminded-of-a funny-story" type of speaker.

Hooker

Elmer J. Manson, past president of the Chapter and now treasurer of the Michigan Society of Architects, reported briefly on the Society board meeting held at Dearborn Inn the day before.

Speaker of the evening was Arthur M. Hooker, Chapter member, of Muskegon, who showed his excellent color slides taken on the 1952 A.I.A. Trek to Europe, including England, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy and France. The speaker made interesting commentaries, which, with the pictures, gave a wonderful insight into the exciting tour.

Others present were Murray Black of Battle Creek, Craig Niephaus and H. W. Van Dongen of Benton Harbor, John Lattin of Kalamazoo, Wes Webb of Mason, and from Lansing the following: Harold Childs, Art Zimmermann, Ralph Danielson, Clarence Rosa, Ted Cole, Ed Jackson, William Carver, Clark Ackley, Elmer Blank, W. F. Neuchterlein, Bruce Hartwick, Walter Laitala, Alwin Kolm, C. V. Opdyke, Florence Dyer, Stan Simpson, John Sjolander, John Baker and R. G. Snyder.

The next Chapter meeting will be held in Kalamazoo, exact time and place to be announced later.

offices changes

Phillip C. Haughey announces the admission to partnership of H. Chase Black under the firm name of Haughey & Black, Architects, with offices at 423 Post Building, Battle, Creek, Michigan.

Guida A. Binda, who had been a partner with Haughey, has entered individual practice in the Post Building. Donald P. Sumrill, who had been with the firm of Binda & Haughey as education consultant, will remain with Binda.

Black received his professional education at the University of Notre Dame. He also took graduate work at the University of Illinois. He had been associated with Binda & Haughey.

Haughey's new partner resides at 149 Redner Drive in Battle Creek, is married and has two children. He is a member of the Exchange Club of Battle Creek.

saginaw valley

GLENN M. BEACH, A.I.A., a member of the Saginaw Valley Chapter, A.I.A., was the subject of a two-page illustrated feature in the Living Section of The Detroit Free Press Roto Magazine of Sunday, December 21. The section is edited by Mrs. Lillian Jacksan Braun. She was assisted by Neil C. Bertram, special representative of the M.S.A.

The feature, entitled "Living Is Fun at the Green Dragon," had to do with the 64-year-old "mountain of a house," bought by Beach for his home. "It makes a fantastic residence for an architect who designs sleek modern houses for his clients," so says the article, and it hints that Beach may use it later for his office also.

Pictured with the Victorian mansion and one of Glenn's modern designs are some of the early model automobiles the architect has collected.

The Saginaw Museum has held a ten-day exhibition of the designs entered in the Concrete Masonry Home Competition, sponsored by the Michigan Society of Architects. Concrete Products Association, of Detroit, had provided prizes of $1,000, $750 and $500, respectively, for first, second and third prizes. In addition, there were ten mentions which won $100 each.

The competition was open to architects and designers of Michigan. Of the 52 entries, three were from Midland. The designs were first shown at the Society's Midsummer Conference at Mackinac Island last August.

Monthly Bulletin for February, 1953 will feature in a special section some of the work of Alden B. Dow, A.I.A., of Midland, Michigan. Much of it has not been published before.

The projects include his own office and home, a civic center, a bank, a church, a high school, offices for the Dow Chemical Company, and a number of residences.

The May issue of the Bulletin will be devoted to work of members of the Saginaw Valley Chapter. The makeup of this section will be done by the Chapter's own committee.

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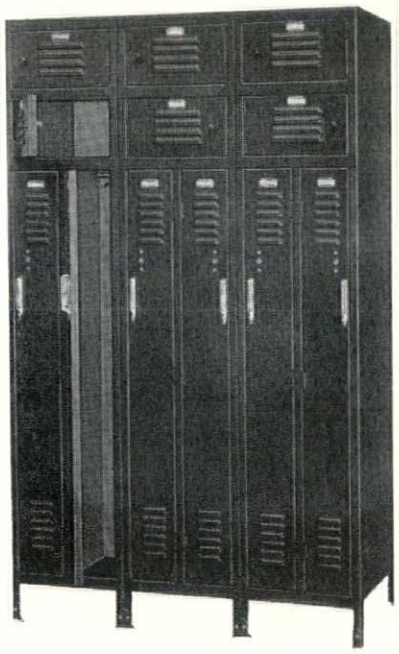

Group of three units shown, accommodating six persons. Each hat locker door furnished with four louvres, coat locker doors with 12 louvres. Legs may be omitted for installation on raised base or in wall recess. Slope tops and closed bases available.

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this month

As announced in last month's National Architect, that issue marked the last of that publication as such. This month we celebrate two firsts —the combining of National Architect with the Monthly Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects, and a completely new format for the Bulletin, as stated on page 3 herewith.

We assure our subscribers that nothing is being taken away from either publication—rather something has been added. By circulating to national as well as State subscribers, the publication will become an acceptable advertising medium for national accounts.

Features that have been carried in the Bulletin regularly are of national interest, such as the work of Alexander Girard in this issue. There will be other Michigan architects featured in issues to come this year —Alden B. Dow, Eero Saarinen and many others. Also, we plan to have such features for other offices throughout the country. A treat in store is a section devoted to the work of Firestone and Motter of Canton, Ohio. Mr. Firestone is President of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, of which our's is official publication. The question as to what can be done to help the publication is being answered by Mr. Firestone, and we hope it will set an example.

Group subscriptions for members of the Michigan Society of Architects are included in dues, at $1 per member. We offer the same privileges to other chapters and societies.

architects in the news this month

EUGENE F. MAGENAN, President of the New Hampshire Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, writes in the New Hampshire Architect:

A new and welcome contributor to the N. H. Architect discusses on another page, "The Professional Engineer and Architect in Public Office." The thesis of this timely article is that engineers and architects have the type of training and experience that should make their services valuable and successful in the field of politics.

This is true, I think, in the same sense as Secretary Pace's answer to a question on "Meet The Press," whether a certain topic was a fit subject for discussion in political campaigns. His reply was that any subject was suitable campaign material so long as it concerned the United States of America.

Similarily, architects and engineers have the training and experience that should make them useful and successful in any field, so long as its problems are subject to logical analysis and straightforward solution. Political problems seldom meet these conditions because the human equation is always present and this is almost never in equilibrium.

Perhaps this is the very reason that politics do not appeal to most architects or engineers. We are accustomed to solve problems of human shelter by our handling of material facts and figures, sticks, steel and stones, things that can be manipulated with reasonable certainty as to the outcome. But government and people are quite unpredictable—people are just funnier than anybody.

If political science and economics were ruled by laws as definite as, say, the laws of structural mechanics, so that our political or economic framework would remain in equilibrium no matter how the winds blew or the snows fell—or how the people moved within that framework—then politics would attract as many architects and engineers as it now does lawyers. One other condition would also have to be satisfied: we would have to earn as much money as the lawyers do, so that we could afford to enter politics.

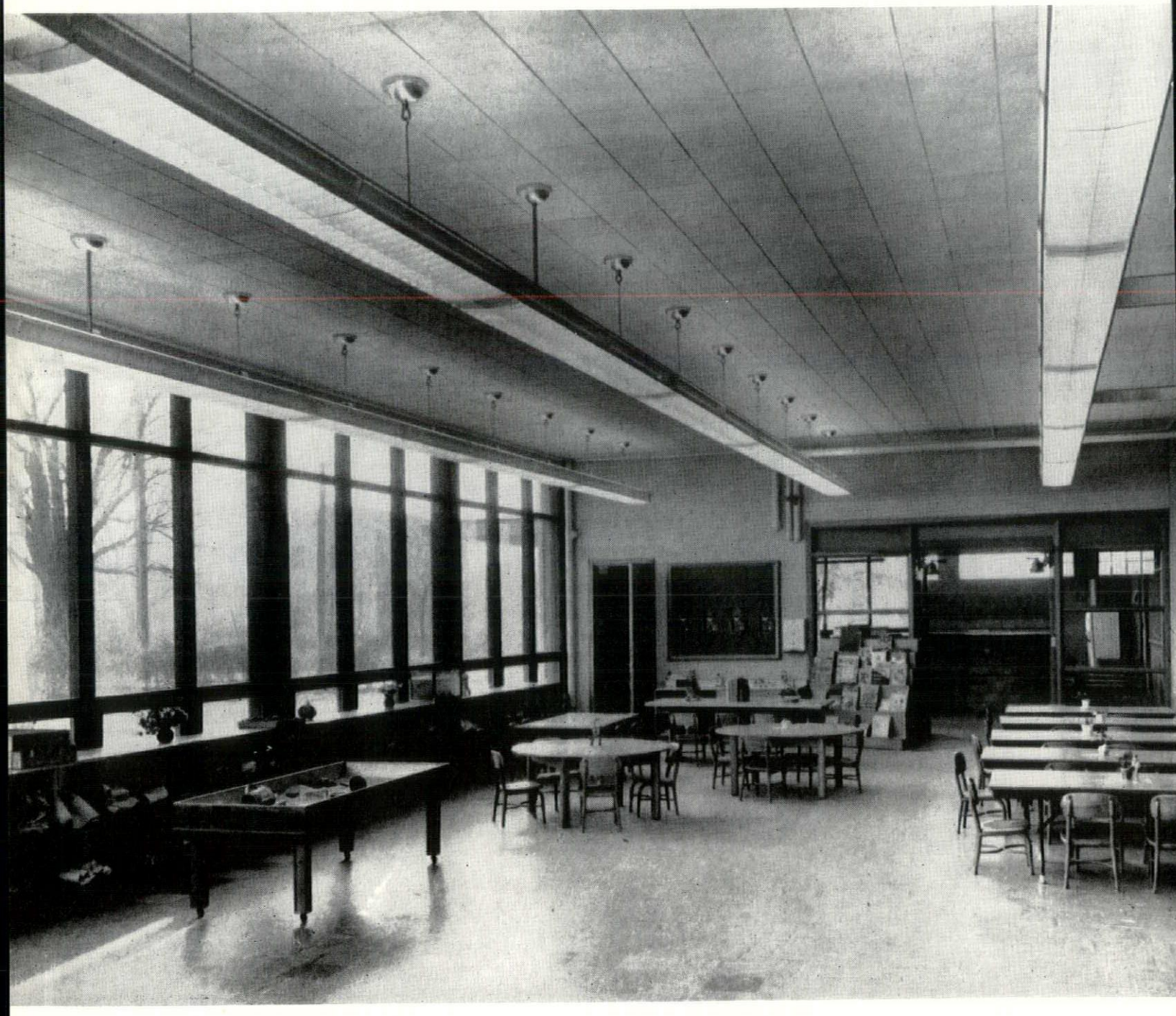
Nevertheless, we have the example of three architects or engineers who achieved greatness in our highest political office: Washington, Jefferson and Hoover. There have been others in les exalted public office. There would be many more if, as our contributor suggests, those who select or persuade candidates to run for public office would more frequently tap that great reservoir of able men and women in the design professions.

Winners in the second annual award competition of the Wisconsin Architects' association were announced by **Leigh Hunt,** association secretary.

The firm of **Weiler & Strang,** Madison, won first prize in the educational division with plans for a grade school at Columbus, Wis. First prize in the municipal and governmental buildings division was won by **Foster & Yasko,** Wausau, for the Alexander municipal airport building for the city of Wausau.

Plans for the office of the architectural firm of **Lewis Siberz, Mark Purcell & Alexander Cuthbert,** Madison, won first prize for the company in the commercial building division. Top residential award was won by **Eugene Wasserman,** Sheboygan, for his plans of the David Rabinovitz residence, Sheboygan.

new fort miami school, maumee, ohio



britsch and munger architects, toledo, ohio

britsch & munger architects

Shown here are views of the Fort Miami Elementary School in Maumee, Ohio, which was dedicated in November.

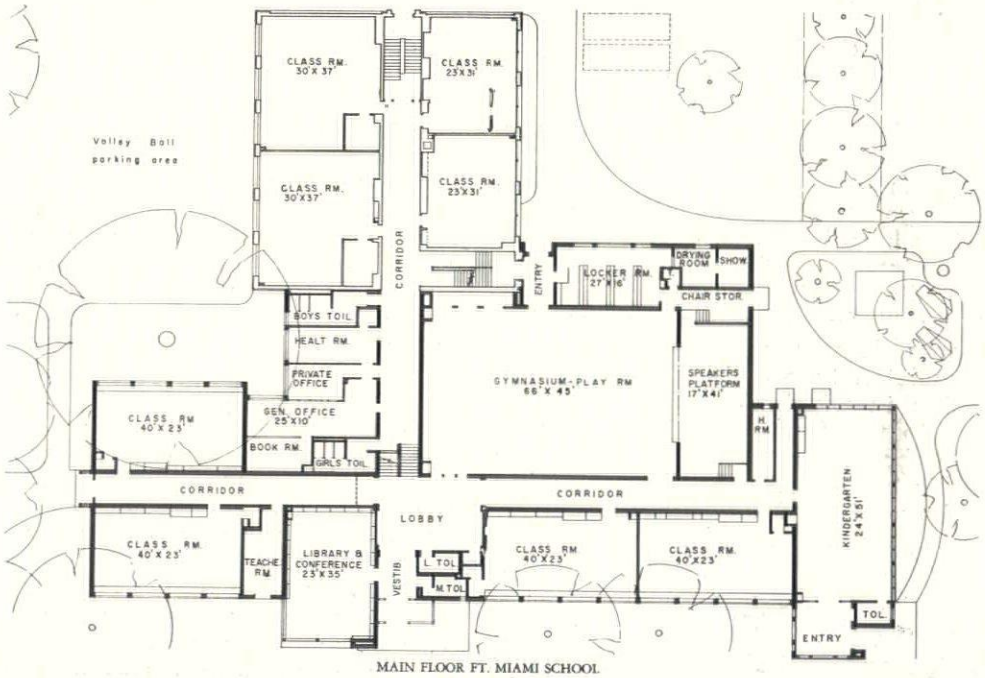
The building has a folding stage, cafeteria tables that fold into the wall, fluorescent lighting, non-combustible fiberglas ceiling tile, washing, drinking and toilet facilities for each classroom, and one-way glass in the kindergarten lobby so that parents may observe their children without being seen by them. Britsch and Munger also designed the Maumee High School in 1939. The picture on page 14 is of kindergarten room.

Pictured at the top of this page are (left) library and (right) auditorium-gymnasium.

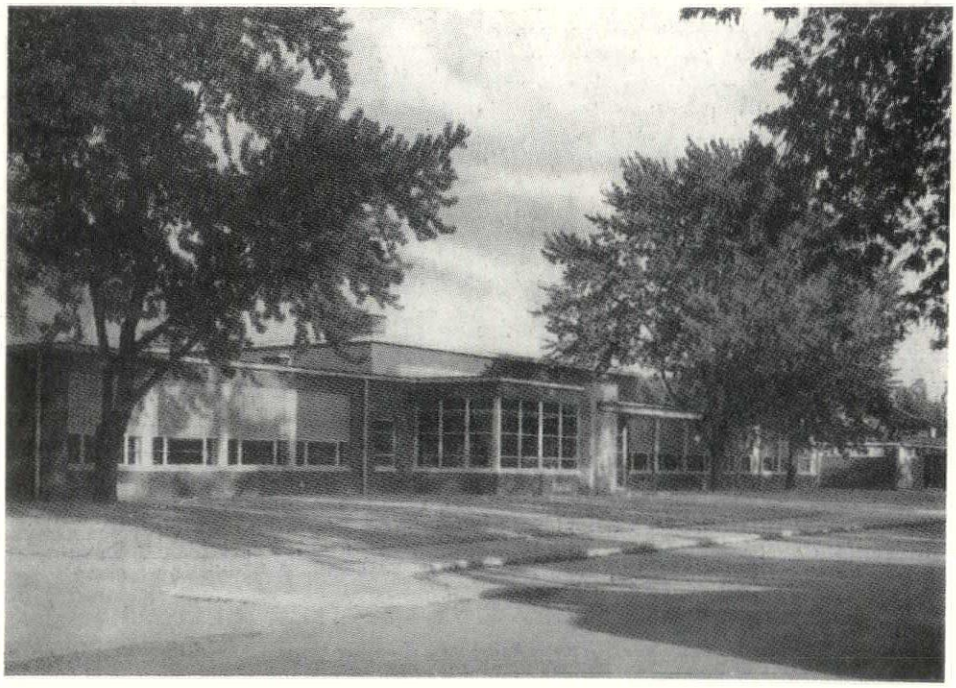
At center is shown main floor plan, and at right is view of exterior.

Mr. Joseph L. Baird, Superintendent of Maumee Schools, is proud of the new buildings, and so are members of the Maumee Board of Education and the Building Committee.

Britsch and Munger have done outstanding work in the field of school buildings.



MAIN FLOOR FT. MIAMI SCHOOL



road to success

A Sketch of Elmer C. Jensen, Dean of Chicago Architects

From Chicago Daily Tribune

The dean of Chicago architects is an 82 year old gentleman who may be found in his office daily. And if a caller has some difficulty in making an appointment with him it probably is because he is so busy working on projects he plans for the future or on one of his outside interests. Among the latter are those concerned with boys and elderly persons.

It is a pity that more Chicagoans haven't had the oportunity to know Elmer C. Jensen, head of the architectural and engineering firm of Jensen, McClurg & Halstead. He has been engaged in architectural work for 68 years which automatically should put him in the "dean" class. Those who have met him have a better understanding of the term "a gentleman of the old school."

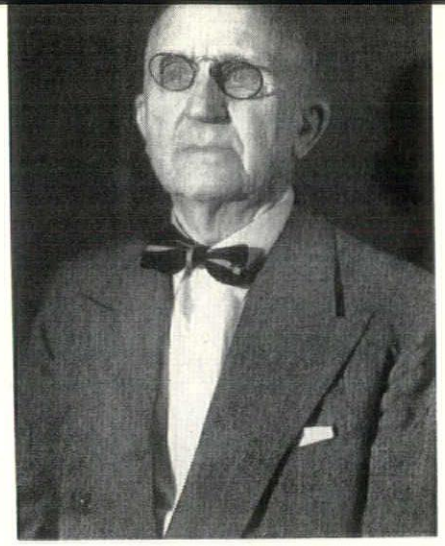
The firm that Jensen heads was organized more than 80 years ago by William La Baron Jenney, known as the "father of the skyscraper." It was Jenney who developed the skeleton type of building construction in which the walls are hung onto the frame and have no part of the support of a structure. It is this type of construction that makes the modern skyscraper possible.

Has Hand in Designing of 29 Loop Skyscrapers

In his long career as an architect Jensen has had a hand in the designing of 29 skyscrapers, or near skyscrapers, in the Loop area. In his 68 years of activity many of Chicago's most famed names in architecture have been his associates. Actually, the firm he heads has had 12 names, with changes made necessary by death or by withdrawals or additions.

Of the 68 years that Jensen has worked, 53 have been passed in offices in one building, that at 39 S. La Salle St. His story is one which should be of special interest to the many Chicago boys who for one reason or another will not be able to go to college. For Jensen's formal schooling stopped at the 7th grade, tho he did study later at night school.

However, the precise manner with which he speaks and his clear English might easily stamp him as a colege man of an earlier day. In conversing with him one observes an absence of any trace of cynicism. His comments on others in his profession are kindly.



Mr. Jensen

He recalls with pleasure and enthusiasm a splendid dinner with wine given him by a client more than 50 years ago and a ride thru the park in a horse-drawn carriage with another client. These were memorable events in the life of the then young architect and to him they still are.

Decides on Life's Work, Architecture, at Early Age

Mr. and Mrs. John Jensen, his parents, were born in Denmark. The son was born in Chicago, March 18, 1870, on Campbell av. (an area which today is being cleared for the Congress st. superhighway). The family soon thereafter moved to Powell av. on the northwest side where there were more trees and grass.

The senior Jensen was a builder and contractor. The son was most fortunate in one respect — even when a tiny lad he knew what he wanted to be, an architect. A neighbor of the Jensen family was William Jones, who worked in Jenney's architectural office. It was natural that the senior Jensen and Jones struck up a friendship because of their mutual interest in building.

Jones passed the Jensen home every day when he usually would ask the son how his father was. One day Jones asked the lad what he liked best to do. "Draw," was the answer. "What for?" was the next question. "Because I want to be an architect," was the reply.

The upshot was that the senior Jensen paid Jones to give his son lessons in architectural drawing in the Jones home evenings. Soon thereafter Jones told his youthful student that there was an office boy opening in the Jenney office. The lad told his father he wanted to take the job.

Can't Afford Time for School So Goes to Work for Jenney

"You ought to go to college if you want to be an architect," the father told his son as he tried to dissuade him from going to work at the age of 14.

"I don't feel that I can spare the time; I want to start right now," Jensen recalls telling his father.

And so the lad started to work with Jenney at the time the famed architect, who also had gained military fame as an engineer on the staff of Gen. Sherman in the Civil war, was building the world's first skyscraper, the old Home Insurance building, at the northeast corner of La Salle and Adams sts. The building since has been replaced by a really tall skyscraper.

The boy's first step on his way to an architectural career consisted of carrying blueprints from Jenney's office to the construction work. The ambitious youngster continued his study of "drawing," in the course of which he went to night school. While still in his teens he became a junior draftsman. Meantime his architectural studies were being continued under Jenney.

"Jenney was a great teacher and he was one of the finest men I ever knew," Jensen told this writer.

Young Jensen was given ever increasing responsibility by his employer and in 1907 he became a member of the firm, Jenney, Mundie & Jensen. Meantime, he had developed a reputation of his own for integrity and for ability to save money for his clients.

His Work Covered Period of Great Chicago Growth

Jensen was a part of the Chicago scene during the period the city was growing at a rate which made it one of the world's marvels. Buildings, large and small, were shooting up almost overnight in all sections of the city. But it was in the downtown district that a large part of the young architect's work was done.

Among the Chicago buildings in which he had a hand constructing are the New York Life, the National Life (now the Equitable), the Fort Dearborn, the Union League club, and many others. There were some 26 bank buildings, many in other cities. Among the bank buildings was one on Monroe st. which was built for John R. Walsh, Chicago banker who was sent to prison for mishandling the bank's funds. It is typical of Jensen that he recalls the good qualities of the banker and continues to call him his friend.

The banker and his deeds, both good and bad, long since have vanished. The bank building of which he once was so proud is now a garage.

In many respects Jensen has had a rather tranquil life. He has gone

along in the practice of his profession and at the moment has some projects on the fire. There have been periods of depression when money was scarce. He has been given about every honor the members of his profession in Chicago have been able to bestow. He is a past president of the Illinois Society of Architects and of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He has been president of the Chicago Building congress.

The architect has headed the Union League club's boys club activities and he has served on the board of an old people's home. He has been active in slum clearance and is a member of the advisory board of the Chicago plan commission. An associate commented that despite his years Jensen still has time for work that much younger men would turn down because they were "too busy."

Recalls Lifetime of Great Moments, Achievements

There have been many incidents and moments to recall. One was of a building which was almost completed for the World's fair in 1893. It was to have been a colossal theater, with a great expanse of water, for the presentation of a dramatic story of the discovery of America by Columbus. Almost finished, the contractors refused to complete the job because the sponsors lacked sufficient funds and the enterprise was abandoned.

Jensen recalls a great achievement in the replacement of a floating foundation under The Fair store with a foundation in which concrete columns were set on hardpan. Business was carried on as usual and the public had little knowledge of the very expensive engineering feat that was going on under its feet. And there are many more.

In his twenties Jensen met at church a young lady from Bufalo, N. Y., Miss Mary Dodsworth Nagel. He married her in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen have a son, John C., in the export business, and two grandchildren, Sharon and Susan.

The senior Jensens have an apartment on Woodlawn av. and a home on the shore of Lake Michigan, five miles south of South Haven, Mich. Jensen says if he has a hobby it is one of keeping close to nature. He loves flowers, trees, birds, and all other things having to do with the great outdoors.

A prominent Chicago citizen who has known Jensen many years had this to say about his friend:

"Had the great essayist, John Ruskin, written about Jensen, he might have said: 'Here is a man with a classical character. We would do well to use him as an example for our children'."

booth fellow j. b. livingston

James B. Livingston, an associate member of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., is on the design staff of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers. As the winner of the George G. Booth Architectural Traveling Fellowship for 1952, awarded by the U. of M. College of Architecture & Design, he spent ten weeks studying in Europe this summer.

While a student in architectural college, one of my instructors questioned me concerning my views on public housing. He asked, in effect, "What are you, as a young architect, going to do about the growing need for more and better housing in this country?"

My reaction then was that I was training to build large commercial and industrial structures, not small houses; furthermore, I did not believe that architects should become involved in housing politics.

Several years later, while working with housing and planning commissions, I began to wonder if the architect should not, after all, share in the responsibility of formulating housing policy.

I decided to enter the George G. Booth Architectural Traveling Fellowship competition which offered the opportunity to observe the architects' role in other countries.

My objectives were: (1) To study foreign housing policies by making a comparative analysis of social principles, governmental structure, technical development, financing methods, (2) To observe the function and degree of participation of the architect in the formation of housing policy, (3) To review the resultant planning, (4) To organize the accumulated information in factual form.

After being awarded the Fellowship, I spent three days in New York at the United Nations Housing and Town Planning Section. There, I reviewed the background of their European Aid Program, under the Mutual Security Agency, and studied methods and techniques of financing housing in Europe. I completed an itinerary and scheduled a series of meetings with the leading housing authorities in the countries I had decided to visit.

Arriving in Paris, I met with Donald Monson, Housing Consultant, European Labor Division, and one of the world's foremost housing experts. He and Mrs. Monson, former senior economist at the Detroit Housing Commission, greatly amplified my itinerary because of their positions in the housing rehabilitation program of Western Europe.

I had not been in Europe long, before one fact became strikingly clear: the European architect plays a major role in the formation of housing policy.

I found that most architects spend a good deal of time participating in activities that influence public opinion in this field. They contribute to periodicals, exhibitions, and conferences that deal not only with architectural topics, but with all related social problems as well. Formed into active, well-knit groups, they help determine basic social thinking and devote personal time to an extent that would be considered highly unusual in this country. The architects, engineers and planners enjoy very close cooperation with each other. Among them, there seems to be a mutual respect that is lacking in the U. S. Most important — these professionals are held in high esteem by the populace and are respected as leading thinkers.

Another significant European development is the creation of building research centers. Supported by private and government funds, these centers carry out research in every field of housing and city planning. The information they gather is made available to all — builders, economists, architects, sociologists, manufacturers and government agencies. These centers were initiated by architects. To date, they have been of invaluable help to the general housing effort. The European architect's pre-occupation with housing is, of course, good business. About the only money available for building is from ECA, earmarked for housing.

Granting all this, the fact remains that the European architect has assumed a large part of the responsibility for the economic, social and governmental planning that proceeds the actual design of housing. Many European architects asked me, "Why do American architects leave all the basic thinking in public housing work to a few social scientists and the government? And then, why, when directed in the design of a project, do they protest loudly that it isn't reasonably planned?"

In Europe, housing is such an important problem that it is difficult for the architects and planners to understand why we don't have our most able architects in better positions of influence. Europeans are amazed to find that not only are very few American architects interested in the social problems of housing, but that very few are interested in any housing at all.

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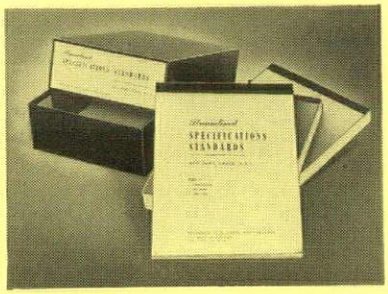

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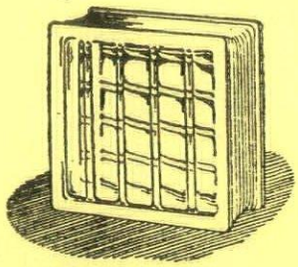

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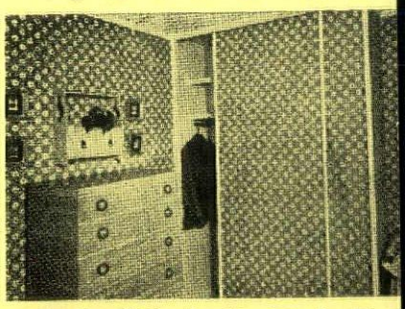

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alexander girard's architecture

Experts are now everywhere—on lighting and kitchen planning, on the care of the brain and the care of the heart, on cities, on soil, on sales, on anything you may pick, on that you will find a specialized expert. As this goes on, society more and more resembles a dry wall—little bits held together by nothing but gravity and not well adapted to keep out the weather.

Small wonder that people have looked again with envy to the Renaissance, where man frequently was at once athlete and intellectual, artist and scientist, craftsman and creator. In Florence, the home of the Renaissance, Alexander Girard grew up some forty years ago. With so quiet a man one can only guess whether his sense of values was shaped by study of the testimony of the Renaissance around him, or whether he absorbed it without conscious effort. Whichever it was, his work from 1928 till now reveals a determination to remain, like Renaissance man, adept, inquisitive, productive and balanced.

Girard is an architect. Especially in the past years his architecture has become mature. But he has also designed and executed gardens and sculpture, settings for festivals and exhibitions, furniture, textiles, ceramics, lamps, clocks, radio cases and a multitude of toys. Some tokens of this many-sided activity are pictured on these pages. Through them all runs the Renaissance attitude—you will find things created not for their own sake alone, but to contribute to the whole of living. Through them all runs a leaven of playfulness—even the houses and gardens, gracious and ample as they are, have some qualities of toys: they are recreation for those who use them as much as creations by Girard.

Five years of the Architectural Association School in London gave Girard a thorough training. A progressive staff required technical fluency of the students. Visiting professors discussed new achievements on the Continent and in the U. S. during the very years when architecture was forming the hard core of international modernism. Great exhibitions were landmarks of this growth: Paris, 1925, Stuttgart, 1927. Important groups were fomenting progress: the Bauhaus had just moved into its famous new Weimar buildings as Girard began this schooling, le Corbusier's **Pavilion de l'Esprit nouveau** was the shock of the Paris world's fair the next year. The great Dutch book on Frank Lloyd Wright appeared and was widely discussed. In London itself a formal but vigorous sense of composition and planning could be gained from Nash's stucco palaces superbly placed in Regent's Park. Besides these influences Girard remembers his particular interest in the **neo-rokoko** of Kaufmann's theatres in Germany, in the bright, playful handcrafts that flourished then in Milan, Vienna and Paris, in Brian O'Rourke's path-breaking ships, in Epstein's architectural carvings. It was a magnificent moment to grow up in architecture.

When Girard finished school in 1929 he was ready to carry out the Italian interior display for the Barcelona exhibition of 1930 —the sane international event that evoked Mies van der Rohe's renowned pavilion. Girard had already executed two large commissions for interior remodelling and furnishing in Florence; one is pictured here (page 22). Nineteen thirty found him not only in Spain but also in Sweden. He studied Asplund's bold exhibition where Scandinavian modernism was born, and he worked for the forward-looking Nordiska Kompaniet designing furniture.

Girard's American relatives and birth drew him to settle in the United States. In 1934 when P.E.D.A.C. organized one of the first post-depression shows of interiors in New York, Girard exhibited an elaborate room. The next years were occupied with interiors for smart restaurants and exhibitions, and with an ambitious scheme for a modern art school building in New York. Girard **pere,** also on this side of the ocean, affected these works; the present Girard can be traced only in the colorful sparkle and contemporary alertness that marked them.

Throughout these initial international essays, Girard continued to carry out many designs with his own hands, especially in wood, plastic, paper and paint. He is never satisfied to remain at a drawing board even today. the intrinsic qualities of materials fascinate him too much for that. The power to create by progressive changes — the need to see a work grow into its own completeness—make him as much a craftsman as an architect. It is no surprise that most Girard buildings are studied in models made and changed in his own studio.

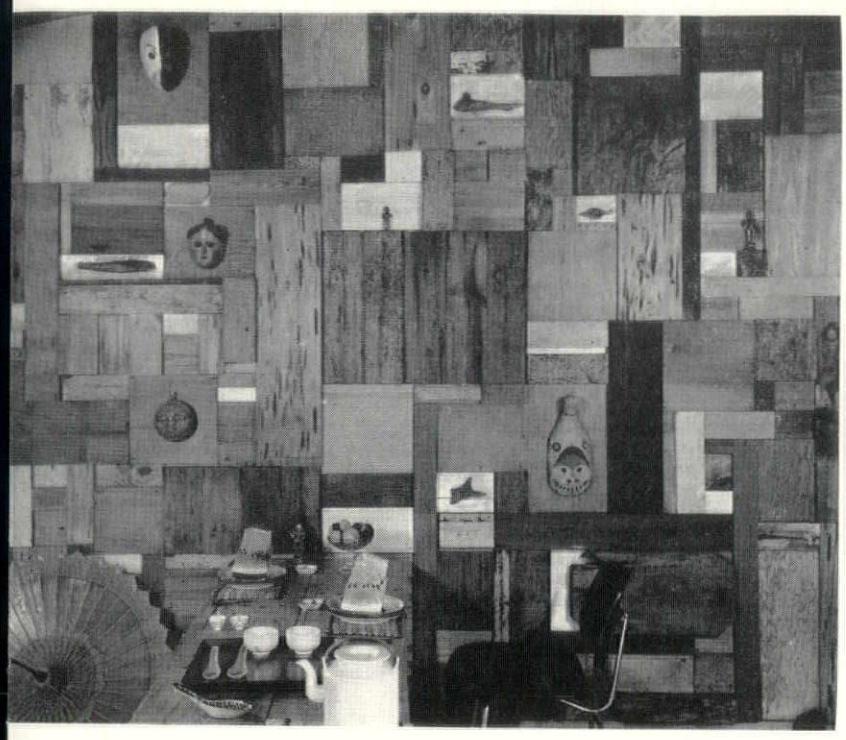
Nor is it surprising that Girard's varied activities are carried on at home. Drafting boards and reference files are no more central to his work than a small tool shop where he turns out models, furniture, sculpture or toys at will, or than the garden he grades, plants and paves himself, or than his rambling lively house, ever subject to surprising interior experiments. Girard's

view of work as a part of life requires the fusion of office, toolshed and home. Mrs. Girard is in full partnership on all fronts; the children are more enlivening though less frequent interrupters than the telephone. Perhaps these are reasons why the houses he designs are remarkably livable.

It would be unjust to Girard to suggest that his architecture is subordinate to domesticity and hobbies. Work rules the Girard household—the working day is the waking day. Guests and visitors are welcome, they too enrich the process—the free flow of absorbing and creating which produces the vivid works shown here, and many more.

Girard's ideal may remain constant but his work progresses. These pages show a sampling of Girard architecture and design from his earliest work in Florence, dated 1928, till today. What has Girard's exceptional approach given him? Personal satisfaction, of course; but in terms of achievement? Girard now seems to be reaching artistic mastery. His core concept of architecture is symphonic—relationships to site, to materials, to structure, to the flow of use in and around the building, to the modulation of light, to accentuating color, all these are conceived and integrated in a full rich entity. Each such entity has individual character, yet the Girard touch in all is unmistakable. This is no small achievement in an age when most architects mistake meagerness for restraint and the habitual for the habitable. Girard seems not to have an idea for a building, but a theme which, varied but recurrent, welcomes many ideas (including the clients') to be organized within the whole. Perhaps because he sculpts, his buildings are not large sculptural compositions. Perhaps because of his passionate interest in technical devices and procedures, his buildings are not schemes from an engineer's notebook. A true amateur of folk art, his works are not quaint. That is, his work like his life avoids excessive emphasis. His gardening means more than the ability to landscape his buildings—it allows him to use and adapt sites with rare tact. But only in architectural practice itself has Girard learned to play with space and with light (which is the language of space). His years have reaped richly here, giving his work dignity and completeness as architecture for living human beings. It would seem that the Girard approach matures real architecture —ample, efficatious and delightful, architectrue not only as art, but as the great, fundamental art, as the enhancement of life.

Edgar Kaufmann, Jr.



photograph by charles eames

The walls of a roof-sheltered dining terrace in his own home has served Girard's playful needs as an artist - carpenter and eclectic. Hundreds of lumber scraps were selected for delicate or unusual tone and texture, then assembled in a non-structural skin over one entire wall (weather-proofed with roofing paper beneath). The resulting composition incorporates masks of primitive cultures.

This assemblage of existing scrap recalls the technique of pasted paper compositions by cubists, yet the carefully maintained over-all scale is more like cubist—influenced early Mondrian: any focus of composition is avoided and the honesty of surface maintained.

Such richly composed and decorated wall surfaces, adapted to the structure beneath, are famous in Florence, Girard's first home. One thinks of San Miniato, of the Baptistry, of St. Maria Novella (and of St. Mark's and Hagia Sophia that link these to the decor of the Roman empire).

Here on Girard's porch modern architecture re-enters the scene with a vocabulary of decoration and ornament such as one finds in works by earlier and great moderns—Sullivan and Wright, le Corbusier and Gropius, Gandi and Horta.

photograph by charles eames

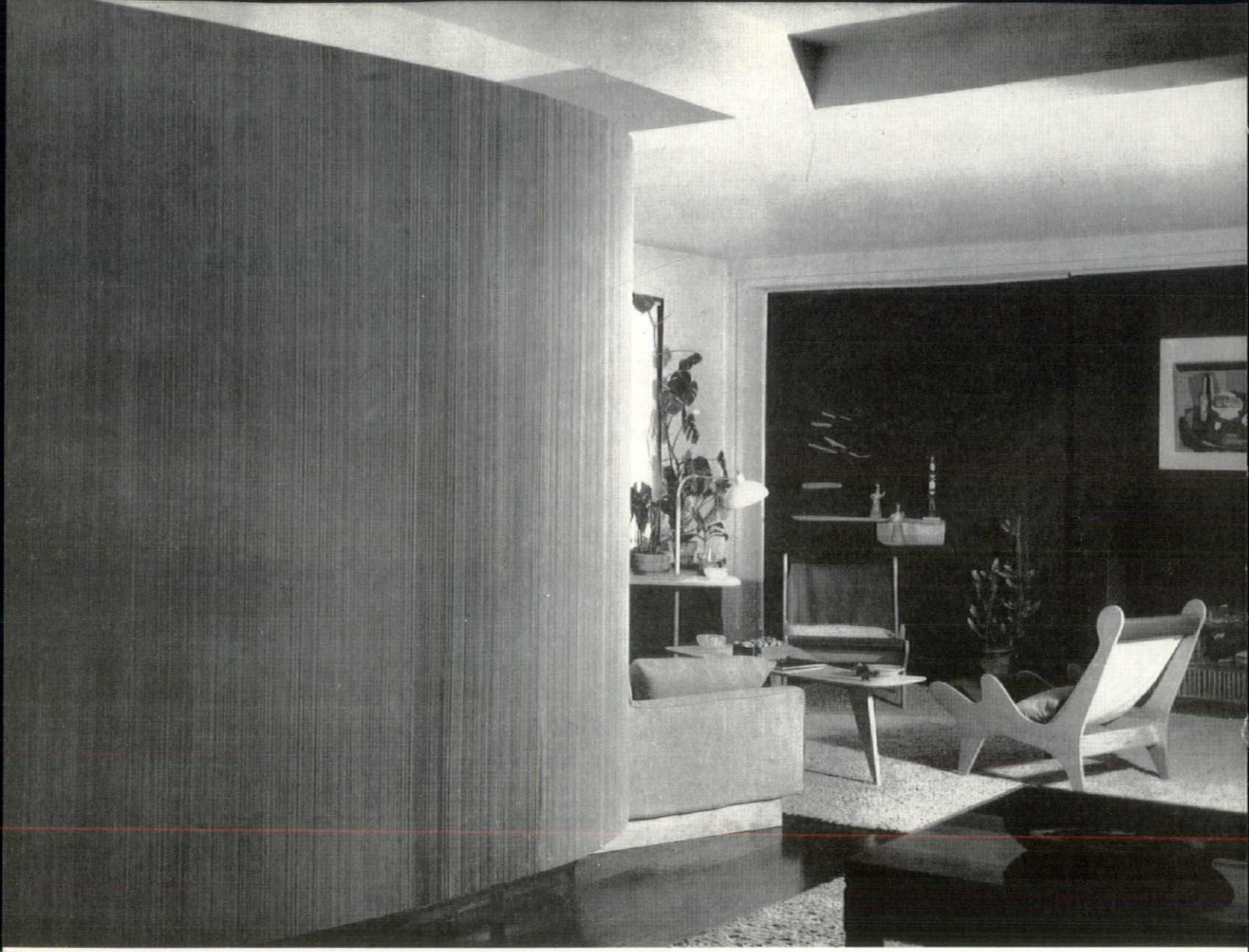
Alexander Girard at his drafting board in Grosse Pointe, 1952.

Girard's own work room in Florence, 1928, that is, before he finished architectural school. German and Dutch influences are at work, directly and through French parallels. (Mallet Stevens was then famous, le Corbusier's pavilion was built in 1925.) The metal supports for drawing board and stool reflect Brener's early chromium tube experiments (le Corbusier's were yet to come). The interlocking cubes of the cabinets, emphasized by color changes, relate to the work of **de Stijl** in Holland. The more ornamental metal grill, upper right, recalls the **neo rokoko** of German and Austrian arts and crafts of the period.

Bed-sitting room in the Detroit residence of Frederick S. Ford, Jr., 1944. Girard's interest in **avant-garde** design has not diminished since the Florentine days, nor his interest in new materials. Storage walls and weldtex were still uncommon for residential use in the mid-forties. Color is used as before, to clarify form. What the years of experience have brought Girard are simplicity, control and an acceptance of space as the architect's most eloquent material. Both light and form (see the triangular table) are used to articulate this room and shape it to human use.

The Girards' toy collection displayed in part at their first Detroit home, 1940. The wall decoration over the fireplace is by Girard, as is the sofa. Scale governs the display of toys.

photographs by elmer astleford

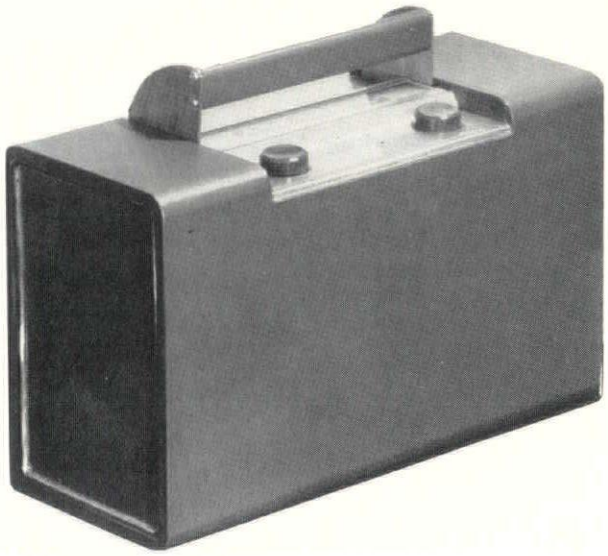


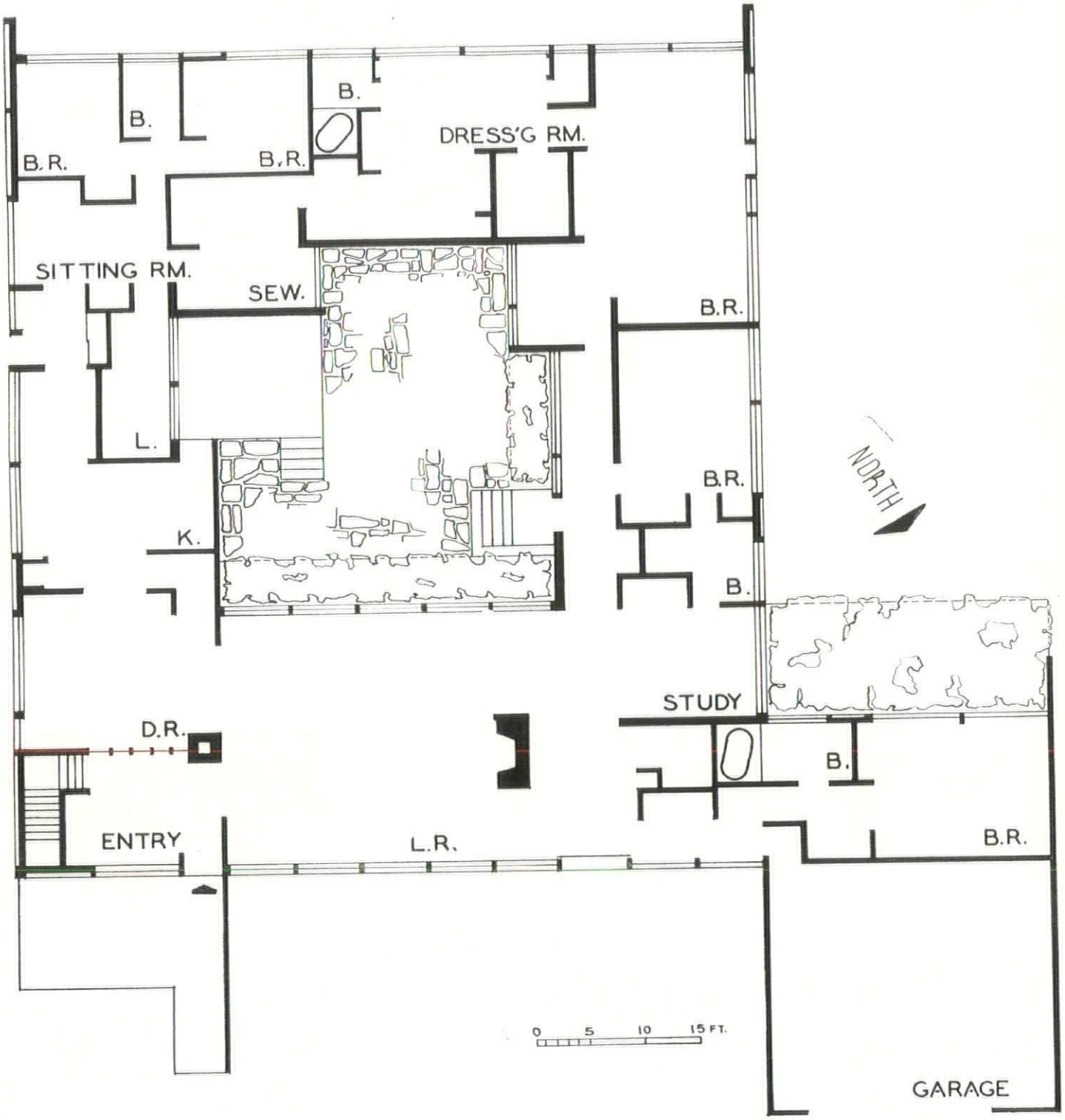
Above: In 1944 the Girards remodelled their home, seen in the photo of toys (page 23). The same fireplace appears in both photos. A bold step forward is shown. Forms are less fussy and more inventive. Compare the plywood arm of this plastic slung easy chair to that of the much older sofa in the former picture. A weldtex screen shields the drafting from the living room. Girard sculpture in wire and balsawood shares a free-form shelf with some primitive toys. Function, fantasy and advanced technology are characteristically blended.

photographs by elmer astleford

Above: Employees' cafeteria for Detrola, 1945. In these years, Girard was architect and product designer for this large manufacturer of radios. The forms, colors and patterns that emphasized human use of the space are naturally bolder than in residential design. Warm, earthy tones predominate here. By now Girard's work was being published regularly in Interiors, the Architectural Forum, Architectural Record, Arts and Architecture and Domus.

Right: One of Girard's radio designs, 1946. Though not executed, this is superior to any current model, six years later. The end speaker grill is notable, and the handle, comfortable but uncomplicated. Most remarkable are the good proportions of the numerals, an essential of good design still ignored by radio producers in their thousand varieties.

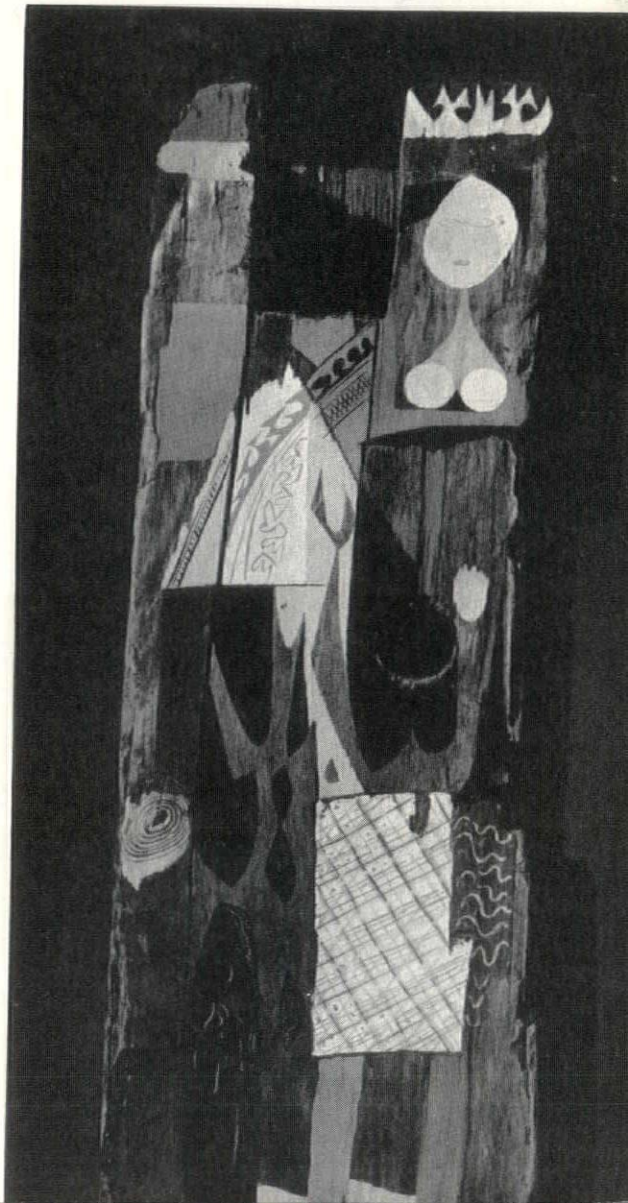




Four years after the Jackson house came the first of Girard's atrium houses, and the only one in which the main court is entirely enclosed. The McLucas house stands on a smallish corner lot in a built-up area, surrounded by two-story residences. Its lofty living room and easily disposed wings make the neighboring structures look prim and inadequate. Within the atrium (which serves to enlarge the living room) quiet and privacy reign, accented by brightly glazed brick (early experiments connected to the glazed brick of Saarinen's General Motors complex, with which Girard was associated as color consultant).

photograph by elmer astleford

In 1945 Girard designed and supervised this residence for Richard W. Jackson, his first entirely new building. It shows more clearly than any other of his works his profound debt to Japanese architecture and the philosophy behind it. Only the porch posts come straight out of Japanese practise. But the handling of "vernacular" forms in a self-conscious way is parallel to Japanese usage—board and batten skin over frame is current in the lumber lands, corrugated cement roofing is current in factory areas, shed roofs are also industrial commonplaces. These are combined to enclose the space needs of the client. Since this, Girard's houses have steadily progressed toward a more forthright expression of artistic will.



photograph by elmer astleford

SCULPTURE—1945. An old timber end, hacked and split, served as the point of departure for this flight of Girard's fancy. It is typical of his determination to cross the established boundaries that confine art today.

photograph by elmer astleford

Three views of Alexander Girard's own house built in Grosse Pointe in 1948. The foundations of two older houses were used, one under the service wing (left of tree) and one under the master bedroom wing (right of tree). An ample square space between them was enclosed as the main living area and office; above this the children's rooms form a narrow bridge connecting the wings. The Girards' young daughter gives scale to the close-up. The garden, built by Girard (and watered by his wife) is seen through a large opening from the living room. This aperture is screened and sheltered by overhanging garage doors, which are kept closed all winter; there is no glass in the opening, but a glazed skylight parallels its top and lights this end of the room regardless of season. Thus the room is radically changed to suit the climate extremes of Michigan weather. Girard's tinkering shop is a small separate building in one corner of the garden. The "venacular" treatment of walls and general massing is much more expertly handled here than in the 1945 house seen overleaf.

photographs by charles eames

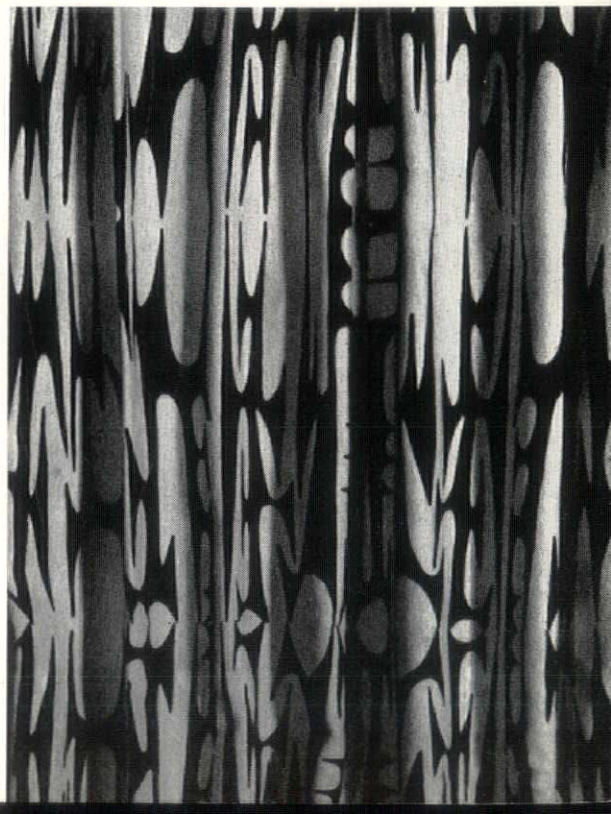
photograph by elmer astleford

Two views of the Girards' living room in their 1948 house. On the left: the low-ceilinged area faces a street garden (seen overleaf, with the large tree). To one side, the partition enclosing Girard's work space; a guest room is glimpsed through the open door. Between these, glass book shelves help to emphasize the intrinsic verticality of stored books.

On the right one sees the main seating area, foam rubber cushions placed on a long, low shelf that backs up to the serpentine "wall" of the work space. These seats face the chimney. In back of them, are radio cabinets and the screened opening toward the main garden. Kay Bojesen's monkeys of teakwood gaze at their shadows on the wall. The coffee table is heavy Moroccan brass. The rug is a white polar bear skin. Clearly, Girard's modern cannot be accused of coldness.

The fabric print shows Girard's entirely personal sense of form and his skillful understanding of what folds will do to a flat pattern. It was designed around 1947.

photograph by charles eames



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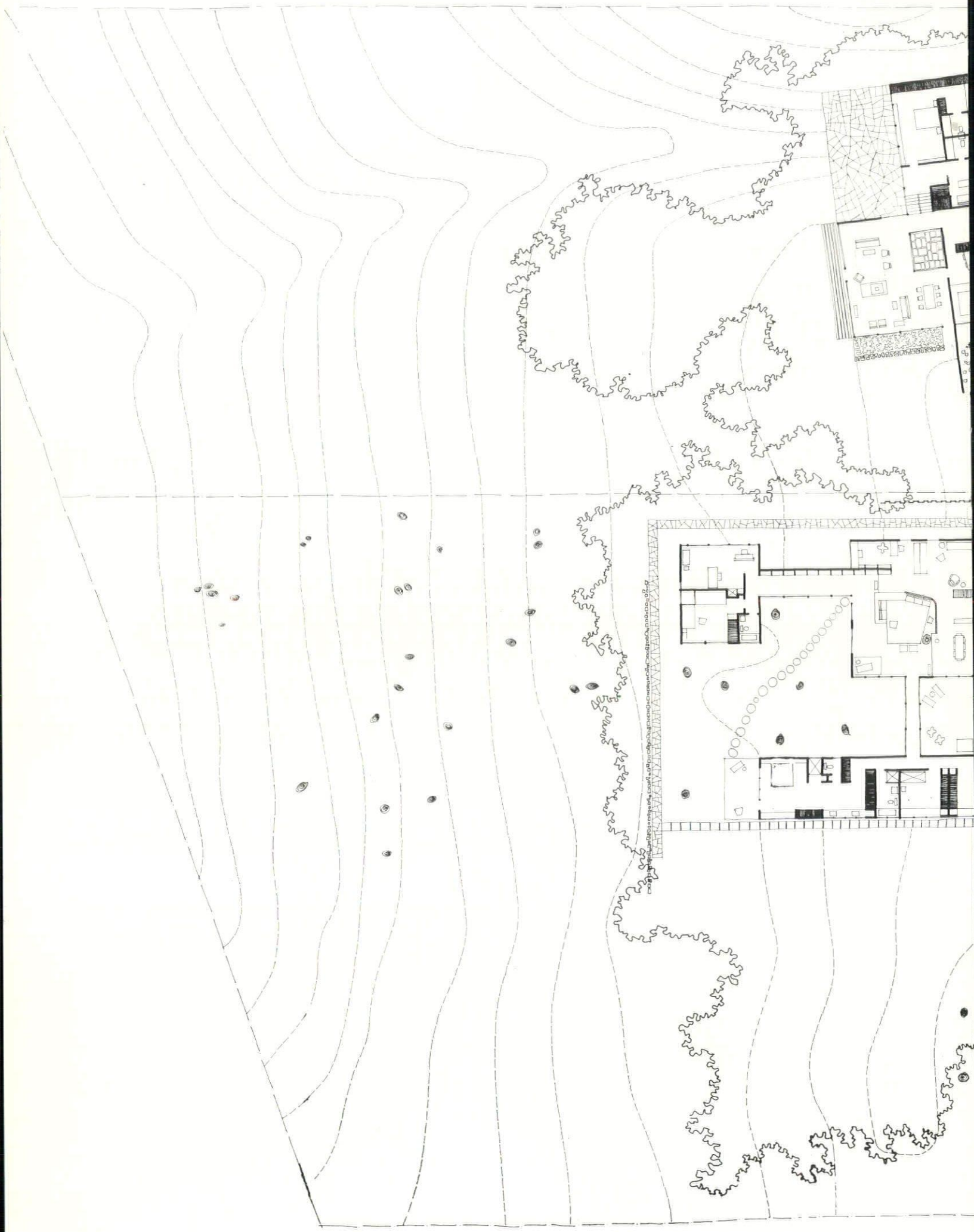
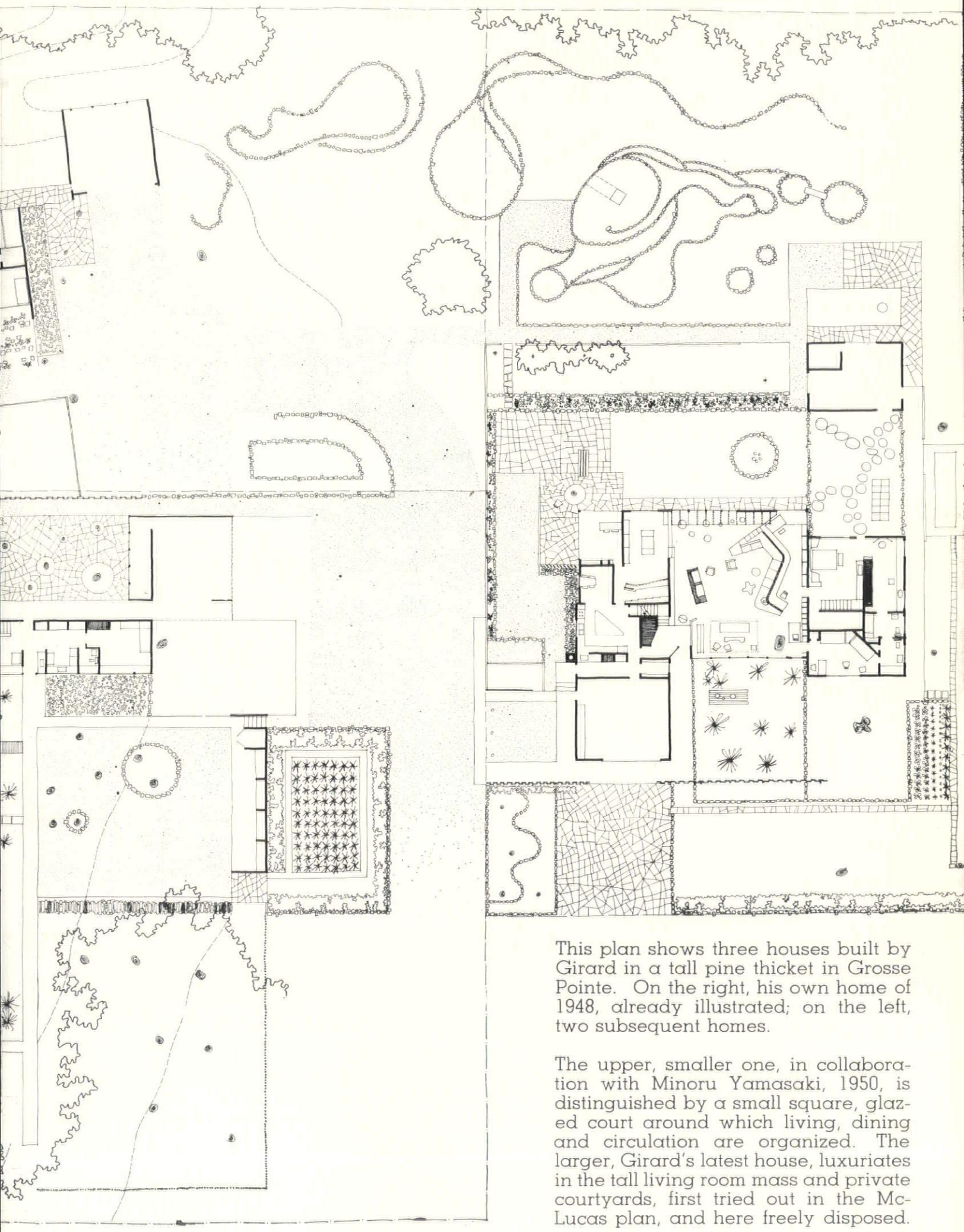


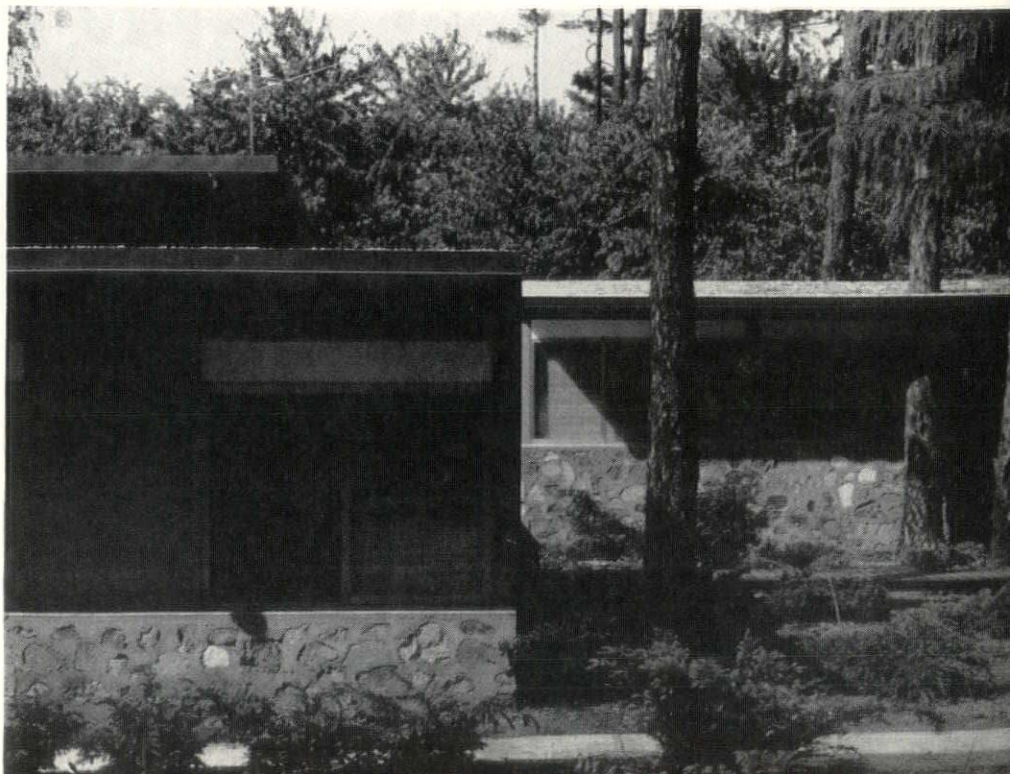


This plan shows three houses built by Girard in a tall pine thicket in Grosse Pointe. On the right, his own home of 1948, already illustrated; on the left, two subsequent homes.

The upper, smaller one, in collaboration with Minoru Yamasaki, 1950, is distinguished by a small square, glazed court around which living, dining and circulation are organized. The larger, Girard's latest house, luxuriates in the tall living room mass and private courtyards, first tried out in the McLucas plan, and here freely disposed.

The Rieveschl house is Girard's latest completed work, 1951. Outside, the long low wings weave a pattern through straight tree trunks. Filler panels on the frame walls are painted various, gentle shades of gray and buff. Within, the living room is organized around a sunken seating area, fur carpeted. A large freely molded fire hood is painted white. Great built-up posts and beams give the simple timber construction unusual dignity. Several themes first explored in Girard's own living room are matured in this design: for example, the overall square area, the seating shelf (here becomes the intermediate floor level), the glass book shelves (here used to accent a sloping corridor). The Rieveschl's house is developed as a surprising and winning combination of formality and countrified ease, typified by the plan (overleaf) where the serene square of a high living area is flanked by low extended bedroom and service wings. Rolling land was left ungraded, and the wings lie slightly lower than the main great room. The connecting corridors sloping to fit the terrain are an exceptional device, handled with virtuosity and ease. This house is laden with thoughtful, original details well controlled and typical of Girard's ingenious art.

photographs by charles eames



photograph by dale rooks

In June 1951 Girard designed this much-applauded interior for an exhibition in Grand Rapids. The furniture is by Charles Eames and George Nelson, manufactured by the Herman Miller Furniture Company. At this time Girard was appointed director of Miller's new fabric division, designing a large range of drapery and upholstery fabrics which won instant acclaim for originality and usefulness. The Girard mural, brightly colored, evokes Italy, his early home.

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products news

parade of building materials

Of great interest to the architectural profession and the construction industry in this area will be the "Parade of Modern Building Materials" exposition to be held on Tuesday, January 20, in the ballroom of the Veterans' Memorial Building, West Jefferson at Shelby Street, Detroit. Fifty-four exhibitors will show the latest in construction materials sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the Producers' Council.

The exposition will be open to the public from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. After that the event will be viewed from 6 p. m. to 10 p. m. by invitation only. Chairman Walter G. Sandrock of U. S. Plywood Corp., heads the committee on arrangements, made up of William B. Commons of H. H. Robertson Co., Walter R. H. Sherman of National Fireproofing Corp., and Albert G. Hann of Hillyard Chemical Sales.

Sandrock

Because of its far-reaching import to developments in the construction industry of the future, it is felt that the exposition should be a must for those who wish to keep abreast of our rapidly changing times.

Over 225 members of the architectural profession and construction industry attended the Christmas party held by the Producers' Council, Michigan Chapter, on December 8 at the Hotel Fort Shelby, Detroit. The affair was one of the most successful in years.

A huge turnout of prominent architects were in evidence, among them: George K. Scrymgeour, Julian Cowin, Thomas H. Hewlett, Joseph H. Leinweber, John O. Blair, Dixon B. Kellogg, Gerald G. Diehl, Charles B. McGrew and Frederic A. Fairbrother.

Still others were Ralph W. Hammett, Leo M. Bauer, John K. Cross, Gardiner C. Vose, Gustav Muth and George L. W. Schultz.

Elmer G. Kiehler wore the architect's tie of the evening—a handsome one of oriental splendor.

Milling about during the cocktail hour we saw Werner Anderson, Emile G. Jehle, Peter Tarapata, Leo J. Schowalter, Robert A. Zander, Carl R. Habermas, Walter Anicka, Joseph N. Lacy, Louis Redstone and Charles M. Valentine.

The accolade for the most unusual tie of the evening went to Frank H. Wright whose handpainted creation was of Pocahontas in an Esquire motif.

Passing down the buffet table were Albert Schoerger, Allen Agree, D. S. Budzynski, Sr., H. J. Keough, Eugene Mitton, Robert Yokom and Arnold Agree.

New liaison members present were Maurice Hammond and Charles J. Burns.

One of the most distinguished gentleman at the affair was George Miehls, president of the Albert Kahn organization.

Many Producers' were in evidence, too; among them Paul Marshall, Ernie Baker, H. M. Armstrong, Tom Schwer, Alfred Moor, H. W. Somershoe, R. J. Olshea, Doug Ainslie, Jr. now of Philadelphia, Bill Portland, W. M. Taliaferro, Ray Deppmann, O. F. Preuthun, John Klein, Gene Smaltz, Ralph Dewey, Walter Berd and R. B. Woltz.

John Finn of Pittsburgh Corning wore the Producers' tie of the evening—a suave brown number.

Others noted at the dinner were Louie and Don Ollesheimer, Fred Warnke, J. W. McKenzie, R. C. Lynes, John F. Pagel, Dudley R. Bufton, Al Hann, Walter Park, Jr., Harry Millard and handsome Elmo Liddle.

Bill Ogden, new publicity chairman for Producers', was there, as well as John Owen, W. C. Krease, Robert Cherry, C. A. Lyon, C. H. Starkey, Chuck Kalb, Walt Sherman, Owen Watkins and Frank Burt.

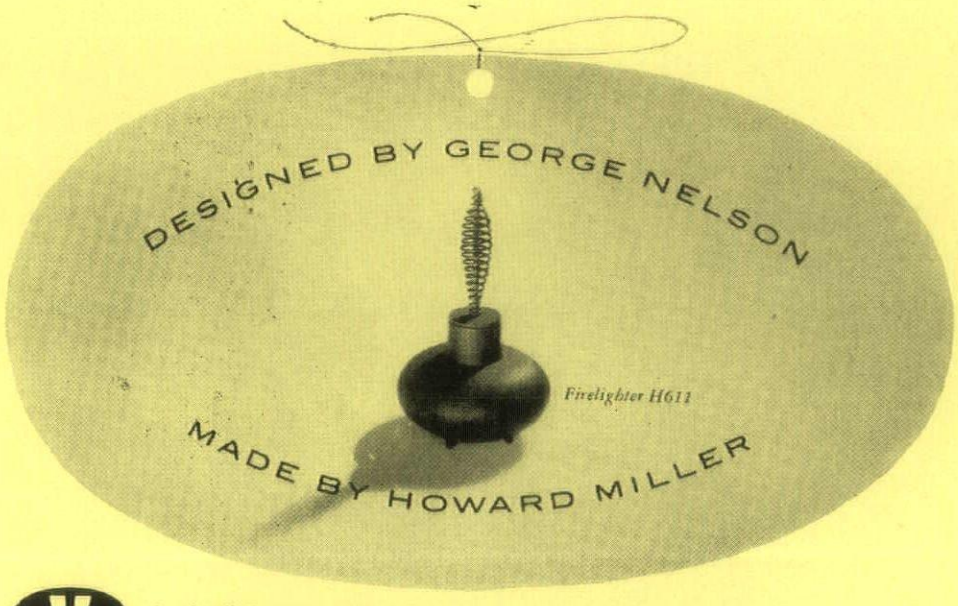
We learned that Jack Murray of R.O.W. Sales is now located in Saginaw, Michigan. You can reach him at 727 No. Granger.

Harry Fritzam, of course, was there —he was one of those who helped in the balloon act. Others enjoying the show were John Ockun, Wright Hitt, Fred Muller, Ross Griffith, W. S. Jenkins, William Boles, Bill Commons, L. R. Hendrickson, C. E. Keaton, Jr., Donald Snavely, Ed DeYoung, R. B. Richardson and affable Frank Sander.

Clyde Oakley, as chairman, welcomed the guests to the party. It was nice to see Roy Smith, Bill Snure, Don Wismon, M. F. Fuelling, Walt Sandrock, Bob Linneburg, Darrell Temple and R. C. Faulwetter. Others there were Sam Burtman and Cecil McCann.

Producer president Bill Mulcahy, who, by the way, wore the bow tie of the evening, was busy making everyone feel at home at the party. Others in attendance were D. L. Granger, Art Hensen, C. E. Webb, H. W. Miller, R. E. Ward, Chuck Kleinbrook, Pat Galway, R. J. Collins and James Smith.

And last, but not least, there was that "onery" member, Bill Cory, who topped the show with his famous Kresge paint story which brought down the house, and his marvelous feats of magic which kept M.S.A. president Leo Bauer tying knots like all get-out only to have Bill serenely unleash the knots by the flick of the wrist. Bill brought along Robert F. Beerbower of Flexicore.



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products

New Window

Appliance Wholesalers, Inc., 1749 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, announce the availability of the Wadco Window Wall, a system of panel windows, making use of only two sizes of glass, designed to cut the installed cost of Thermopane practically in half.

Basic units are from one to three lights wide and one to three lights high, furnished individually or in combinations. Top-hung ventilators of wood may be easily set in as many openings as desired, and do not destroy the slim-line, modern effect. Ventilated sections can be readily screened and weatherstripped. Screened metal ventilators are also available.

This installation is an answer to the architect's request for a simplified unit-window system suitable for contemporary residential and commercial design.

Timber Structures, Inc., one of the nation's largest timber fabricators, announces the appointment of Joseph Nuzzo as manager of the company's Detroit district office, located on the eleventh floor of the Book Building. Nuzzo replaces Thomas F. Doyle, who has been transferred to the Chicago district office.

The new manager comes to Detroit with exceptional qualifications, being a graduate engineer and familiar with many phases of the construction industry.

Hubb Electric Company, of Chicago, Ill., announces the appointment of Theodore Fuchs as consultant to the Company, on lighting and control equipment. Mr. Fuchs is nationally recognized as an author, lecturer and authority in the field of stage and auditorium lighting. His work in illumination and switch board design is well known.

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booklet

The Federal Civil Service Administration has published three booklets on the subject of surveying, altering and constructing buildings for protection against the effects of bombing attacks, it is announced by Clyde E. Doughtery, director of the Office of Civil Defense for the City of Detroit.

One booklet is entitled "Shelter from Atomic Attack in Existing Buildings," contains instructions for civil defense directors and their personnel. It sells for 20 cents.

"Shelter from Atomic Attack in Existing Buildings" (Part II) offers suggestions to architects and engineers for improving certain shelter areas, and it sells for 15 cents.

"Windowless Structures — A Study in Blast-resistant Design," provides technical data for those designing buildings to afford protection from atomic blasts; Price one dollar.

The booklets may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

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stapleford

Edward B. Stapleford, of Cleveland, Ohio, has become national advertising representative for the Monthly Bulletin and National Architect, with headquarters at 120 Madison Avenue in Detroit. His connections enable him to offer a "package" service in architectural publications of Michigan, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. His long experience in this field qualifies him to be of service to those concerns interested in reaching architects and the building industry.

Theodore G. Seemeyer, Jr. continues as advertising director of the Bulletin.

New Firelarm

Firelarm is the new fully automatic fire alarm that is on continuous duty 24 hours a day.

Firelarm gives a loud, penetrating warning when temperature reaches the danger point, and will awaken the household to the danger of an impending fire.

The unit is compact and attractive—no installation required. Simply hang on the wall near any fire hazard and plug into any convenient A. C. outlet. It requires no maintenance and does not use any current except when set off. Then, when fire is extinguished, Firelarm automatically resets itself and is again on duty, guarding lives and property.

This new electric warning device is recommended by insurance underwriters and fire officials, for use in homes, schools, hospitals, hotels, trailers, farms, motels, barns, stores, garages, factories and institutions.

Firelarm retails for $12.50 F.O.B. Detroit and is guaranteed. It will soon be available at leading department stores, hardware, electrical and fire accessory dealers. R. J. Schuler Associates, Grosse Pointe Branch, Detroit 36, Michigan.

BELOW: LARGE CURVED BAY WINDOW with divided lights is a stock standard six-panel Thermo-Sash fully insulated window designed to take half-inch Thermopane. Note how the splayed, satin-finish aluminum division bars enhance the beauty of the window unit and blend perfectly with the interior appointments. A view in the home of Frank C. Irvine, Tarentum, Pa.

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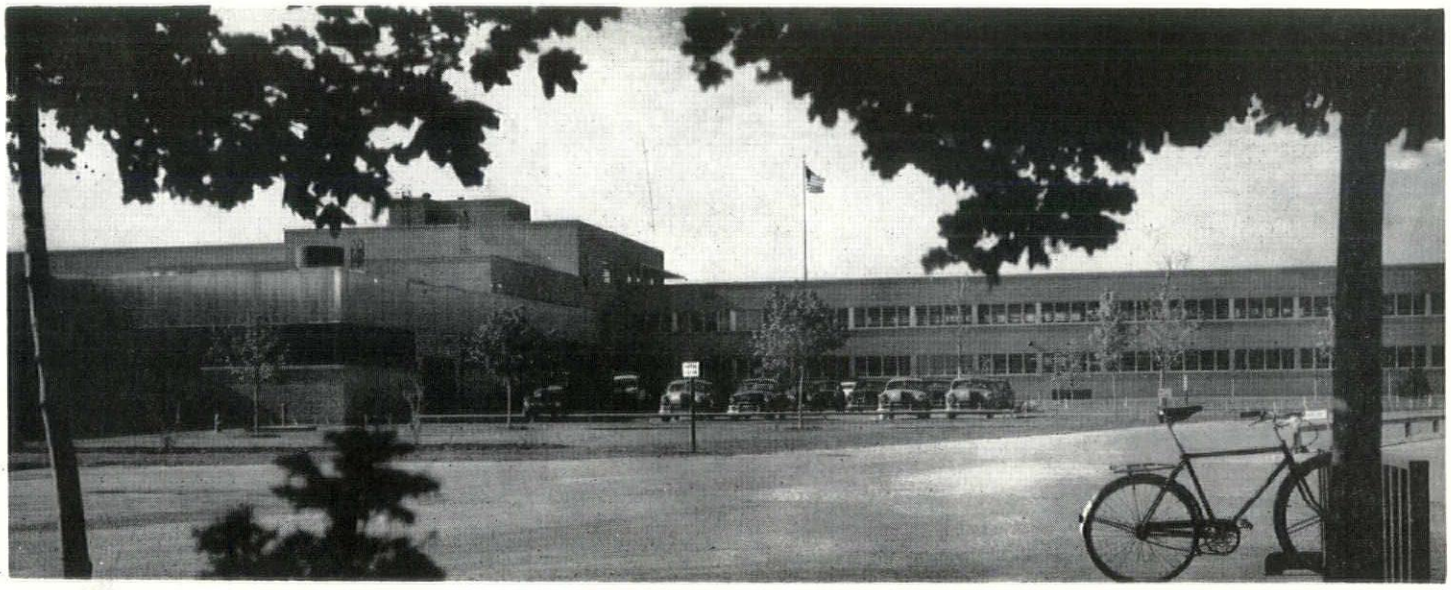

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LIVING *Section*

SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION is one of an architect's important services. Here he checks details with a client for whom he designed this Florida-type house in Dearborn. Note how house and patio curve around the swimming pool. The tile roof is a tropical effect. Nice design note: The graduated windows supplying light and view to the rooms that need it.

THE DRAFTING ROOM is the unglamorous place where glamorous houses begin to take shape. Everyone's ideas count, as the staff participates in a "mental wrestling match" to solve design and structural problems.

NEW PRODUCTS that increase the livability of a house are studied by the architect. Here is a flexible window with its own screens and storms — adaptable for casement, hopper or awning type operation.

THE HOUSE THAT HAS HAD an architect's attention reflects niceties of detail that make good living: Pleasing design, useful arrangement of interior areas, elimination of waste space and other economies.

Career for a Day

Step into the Shoes of an Architect

BY LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN
Living Section Editor

Following an architect around for just one day resulted in the following impressions, thanks to the cooperation of W. Glasson Coombe, A. I. A. Here's how it might be—if YOU were an architect . . .

8:00 a. m. — Bright and early you inspect the progress of the ranch house you designed for the Joneses. It's now in the framing stage. Details, details, details! Did the rough carpenters provide sufficient nailing space for the rock lath? Better put in corner blocks . . . Oops! They've framed in the kitchen sink in the wrong position. Correct that.

8:30—Brief inspection of the Smith house going up in the new subdivision. You find that Mrs. Smith was here yesterday and started ordering extras—a niche for chimes, valances in the library. Check her on this, or she'll be surprised when she gets a bill from the contractor at the end of the month.

9:00 — Quick look at the wing being added to the Johnson house. Johnson's doing his own contracting. You stop him from calling the electrician; he hasn't had the plumber yet. Does he want to bend pipes around the wiring?

9:30—At your office you go into huddle with your drafting room. Check drawings in progress. Discuss the housing problem of your newest client (two small sons, a daughter away in college, invalid mother-in-law). Your entire staff tugs at the problem—a sort of mental wrestling match.

10:30 — You listen to a salesman who's introducing a new window with self-storing screen. You're interested in any development that's space-saving.

11:00 — You go through your daily mail, with special attention to new products. Here's a furnace only two feet square. Here's a roofing idea —pitch and marble chips—well-known in Florida but new in Michigan.

11:20—Call in your secretary for dictation. She's intelligent, good-looking, efficient, well-dressed, accurate. She's your daughter.

11:25 — Emergency phone call regarding that store remodeling job. In taking out the old stairway they've found a 24-inch steel beam in the way. What to do?

11:30 — Cancel your 12 o'clock lunch date. Rush to the scene of the crisis.

11:50—Decide to burn off the beam and add a supporting column.

11:55—Notify the building inspector that you're about to burn a beam.

12:20—Stand by with a fire extinguisher.

1:10—Lunch at a nearby restaurant. The acoustics are bad. The noise bounces off the mirrored wall. You make a mental note never to make a mistake like that.

2:00—Pick up a contractor and go to City Hall for a building permit.

2:45—Back to your office. Sandwich in a little work on specifications and take a turn at the drafting board. This is the quiet hour (you hope!). You stare into space. You work out fresh ideas, solve old problems in new ways.

4:00 — Figure out what you'll say to Client X tomorrow. He calls himself a Practical Man. How can you convince him that a house is not a machine but a place to live? The kitchen may be mechanically perfect, but will Mrs. X enjoy preparing food there? Is the dining room a place to eat-and-get-out, or does it make dining a pleasant family ritual?

4:30 — Telephone the Browns. They want a 63-foot house on a 75-foot lot. The city will permit, but subdivision restrictions require a 10-foot clearance, each side.

5:00—Grab your hat and drive out to inspect some property that a client wants to buy. It's hilly. You'd need a topographical survey to determine the set of the house and to save that big oak tree. You picture a three-level house with living room in the rear, facing the ravine.

6:00—Home to dinner—in a house where dining is a pleasant family ritual? But don't relax yet. . . .

7:30—Appointment with a prospective client. You ask questions. Location of property? Dimensions? Size of family? Manner of living? Hobbies? Style of entertaining? Future plans?

You listen to their ideas and suggest improvements: an activities room . . . better use of their outdoor area . . . a main-floor laundry . . . a flexible house-plan allowing for changes in the size of the family.

10:00—Client phones about the flat roof you've prescribed for his modern house. He's afraid it might leak.

You point out that store buildings have non-leaking flat roofs . . . that his roof is not only effective designwise but also practical . . . that one conductor will drain the whole roof, eliminating several hundred feet of gutter and downspout . . . that the drain won't freeze in winter . . . that there'll be no repainting of gutters or raking out of leaves. . . . that water can stand on the roof in summer for cooling purposes . . . and so on, far into the night.

Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Mich.
10-12-52

Architect's Parley Draws Detroiter

Clair W. Ditchy, Detroit architect, will be in the official United States delegation to the Eighth Pan American Congress of Architects in Mexico City.

The congress will open Oct. 19 and continue through the week.

Raymond A. Foley, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, will head a group of government officials attending.

* * *

THE CONGRESS will consider recent advances in the design and planning of homes, hospitals and university cities. It will meet at the University City, Mexico's most spectacular architectural achievement of modern times.

Immediately after the congress, Ditchy will attend the semi-annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects board of directors at Point Clear, Ala. This session is to run Oct. 26 to 29.

Ditchy is secretary of the Institute.

The board will make plans for the 85th annual convention of the professional society, slated for next June in Seattle.

Proposals for a $100,000 public relations program to gain better understanding of architects and their services will be discussed.

[illegible] cost of the projects was $2,064,258.

9-5-52 FREE PRESS

Industry Fete Is Planned by Council

Some 300 architects, contractors and others in the building industry will be guests of the Michigan Chapter of Producers' Council, Inc. at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13 in the Fort Shelby Hotel.

A new color movie, "Lightweight Champion," will be presented by the Zonolite Co., sponsor of the program.

Kleinbrook

The Detroit Plastering Industry Joint Conference Board will display sectional view lath and plaster construction prepared by the Detroit Apprentice Training School.

Charles E. Kleinbrook, program chairman, said the step-by-step process of plaster fireproofing and sound conditioning will be demonstrated.

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Sunday, Nov. 9, 1952—Sec. E 5

Design Show Picks Girard

Alexander Girard, Grosse Pointe modern architect, has been selected to design the installation for the fourth annual exhibition series of Good Design, sponsored by the New York Museum of Modern Art.

The home furnishings exhibition will open at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago in January. Entries must be submitted by Nov. 27.

Marquette Mining Journal
(12,000 D)
9-24-52

School Heads Will Attend State Meet

105

Several school superintendents and board of education members in Marquette County will attend the fifth annual conference of school board members, school officials and laymen on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the University of Michigan.

"Dollar": Leo M. Bauer, president of the Michigan Society of Architects, who will speak on "Relationship of the Architect With His Clients," and Willard C. Olson,

Page 22 THE FOUNDATION November, 19

Amedeo Leone, vice-president Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, A chitects and Engineers, was elected president of the Detroit Chapte The American Institute of Arch tects, at its annual meeting in th Rackham Memorial buildin Thursday evening, Oct. 16.

MIDLAND DAILY NEWS

Board OK's Architect Qualifications

105

After discussing and correcting a suggested criteria plan for selecting a school architect, the Midland Board of Education, at a special meeting Monday night adopted the plan as corrected.

A first draft of the criteria had been studied at a previous board meeting and was submitted to Leo Bowet of Detroit, president of the Michigan Society of Architects. Board members then spent some time discussing corrections in the first draft and then formally adopted the criteria which is to serve for all future school building programs.

Grand Rapids Press

Speeches Planned By Roger Allen

Roger Allen, local architect and columnist for The Press, will speak at the banquet of the annual convention of the New York Society of Architects at the Lake Placid club, Lake Placid, N. Y., Friday. Allen's topic will be "A Philosophy for Architects."

Allen will be guest speaker at the opening dinner Oct. 14 of convention of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects in the Blackstone hotel.

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Sec. E—Sunday, Nov. 9, 1952

Miehls to Speak at Cleveland

George H. Miehls, president of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, will discuss "Evolution of Industrial Construction" at a meeting of The Producers' Council in Cleveland Monday.

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Thursday, Sept. 18, 1952 17

New Auxiliary Slates Meeting

A new organization, the Auxiliary of the Detroit Chapter o the American Institute of Archi tects, will hold its first meetin this Thursday evening in the Fo Shelby Hotel.

Mrs. Clair W. Ditchy, chairma of the organizing committee; Mr James H. Morison and Mrs. Sure Pfeiffan made the arrangement

Dinner at the hotel will be fo lowed by a visit to the WWJ-T studios.

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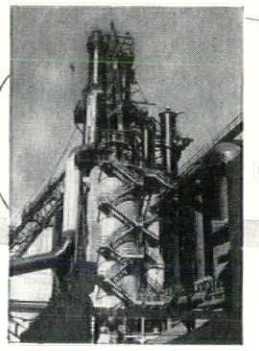

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Along Realty Row:

City Planning Called Key to Detroit's Future

By PAT DENNIS

Amedeo Leone . . . upon his recent election as president of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects . . . said city planning is one of the real keys to Detroit's future prosperity.

Leone, vice president of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., architects and engineers, who just had served as vice president of the chapter and chairman of its committee on civic design, cited Pittsburgh, Washington and Philadelphia as models of city planning and stated even native villages in the South Pacific area are being planned scientifically.

Touching upon Detroit's accomplishments in this field, he pointed to the progress being made in the Civic Center, the refurbishment and face-lifting progress of downtown Detroit, as outlined in this section last Sunday, the several expressways, housing and slum clearance.

He added these major developments will result in an upsurge of privately owned projects, and he expressed the hope private capital from banks, insurance companies and others will play an important part in redevelopment here.

Detroit Times
(405,887 D)
9-28-52

Improved Home Design

Leo M. Bauer, president of the Michigan Society of Architects, states improved home design with more scientific and careful planning of home developments in the Detroit area are coming to the fore rapidly as a result of closer co-operation between builders and architects.

He drew his conclusions following the society's recent architectural exhibit at the Michigan State Fair at which, he said, more than 100,000 visitors evidenced more interest in homes than in any other buildings. He added there is a movement nationally for architects and home builders to get together on fees and other considerations looking toward better service to the public. He said:

"Individual houses and entire developments are being planned from the standpoint of family requirements and maintenance of stable values.

"This is in contrast to a few years ago when the principal concern of most builders was to supply four walls and a roof without fully considering family living habits or future values. This was particularly true in the low and medium-price fields.

"Builders today frequently retain architects before land is

Delegates Named

Leo M. Bauer, Eero Saarinen, Clair W. Ditchy, Kenneth C. Black and Talmage C. Hughes have been elected by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as delegates to serve on the board of the newly organized Great Lakes Regional Council. They will take office at the council's first meeting in Cincinnati, Thursday and Friday.

At the council meeting, Raymond S. Kastendieck of Gary, Ind., will be nominated for the office of regional director of the Great Lakes district of the institute. It consists of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Kastendieck is to succeed John N. Richards of Toledo, whose term expires at the next AIA convention.

Preparing 'School Guide'

Carl C. F. Kressbach, AIA, of Kalamazoo, is a representative of the Wetsern Michigan Chapter, American Institute of Architects, on a state-wide committee to prepare a "School Guide" for the office of the state's department of public instruction, which is headed by Wilfred F. Clapp.

Kressbach presented the outline at a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Michigan Society of Architects, which body has the proposal under consideration.

The new guide contemplates the filing with Clapp's office of forms similar to those used by building departments when permits for buildings are desired. It is held the new procedure should facilitate the processing of plans in the department so that what formerly took several weeks should be done in a few days.

Real Estate Expert Tells Why Small Home Is Popular

Carl R. Habermas, AIA, Detroit architect, makes the observation that a small house usually is built for a family that has to watch a budget. He explains:

"The essential problem is to get the most value for the money it has to spend.

"In many instances it means that not only cash must be put into acquiring a home, but that the future earnings of the breadwinner will be mortgaged for years to come.

"No one wants to live in a home that advertises the fact economy was the governing factor in its design and construction, hence, in this day and age, when most of us face taxes and general living costs with some trepidation, it is only sensible our small houses give us the most for our money in function and appearance at the least possible cost."

BETTER DESIGNS

Contemporary design as applied to the small house has come up with many of the answers, Habermas believes, in pointing out that it requires space shall contribute to living in two and three-fold ways.

He adds:

"Houses today are really space-engineered for better living, and necessity demands construction materials be sturdy, all surplus upkeep costs be minimized, and, whenever it is feasible, that one material serve where before two or more were used.

"Faced with similar problems, our ancestors often constructed solid walls of masonry and let the interior wall stand in its natural state without further adornment, and today we find ourselves doing the same thing.

MASONRY GOOD

"The commercial masonry materials offered today lend themselves admirably to expression in modern design. Many of them have beautiful textures that either reflect light or absorb it, depending upon the finish.

"The decorative values of these materials is being recognized more and more.

"What isn't so well known is that they are economical when used as a finish as well as a structural material."

Marco Knew It

Tung oil—called China wood oil by Marco Polo back in the fourteenth century—has been known for its water-proofing qualities for many centuries. American paint manufacturers use it in making certain types of quick-drying oil paints, varnishes and enamels.

Along Realty Row:

New Architecture To Be Discussed

Hugh Ferriss Talk on Design Slated

Hugh Ferriss, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and president of the New York chapter of AIA, will speak on "What Next in Architecture" at a meeting of the Detroit chapter, AIA, in the Rackham Building, Detroit, Nov. 17, Amedeo Leone, chapter president, announces.

Ferriss' general theme will be a familiar one: a new synthesis of technology and art, apparent in the more recent architectural designs . . . as is being emphasized this year, by the reunion, in architecture, of engineer and artist. Ferriss explains:

"I should think that any one who studies designs coming off drafting boards today, or who attends current seminars and discussions, must be aware of a recent change in climate; as if the winter of cold appraisals were passing and spring returning to architectural design; as if the imaginative artist hidden in every architect were at last catching up with the calculating scientist.

New Age

"Not that the impressive gains on the engineering side will ever be discarded, for, after all, architects have been living in this new age long enough to take its novel requirements for granted . . . to be no longer repelled by them, like 'traditionalists' nor enchanted by them, like 'modernists.'

"Novel tools no longer need be played up in designs as though they were the heroes of the piece, but can be used as tools are intended to be used . . . means to some creative end. The net effect of all the social, economic and technological upheaval is to make architecture, once again, a creative art."

Ferriss' address June 27 before the AIA 84th convention in New York was hailed throughout the country as being the highlight of that event.

Design Consultants

He is past president of the Architectural League of New York. Besides carrying on his own practice at 101 Park avenue in New York, he has been retained as design consultant on various private and city planning projects.

He was special consultant to the UN headquarters planning staff, and is at present consultant to the Avenues of the Americas Association, New York, and the Inter-American Center Authority, Florida. He is author of "Metropolis of Tomorrow" and of "Power in Building," now in preparation.

Ferriss will speak in the auditorium at 8 p. m. His address will be free and open to the public. It will be preceded by a social hour at 6 p. m. and a dinner at 6:30. Ladies are invited to attend.

The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, Detroit chapter, will hold its dinner meeting concurrently in the same building. Following dinner each group will be greeted by a representative of the other, then all will gather in the auditorium for the address.

The address will be illustrated with slides of the early stages of the UN design, bringing out the ideas presented by various architects from abroad.

Firm Changes Name

Frank W. Wiedmaier, president, announces the name of the Detroit firm of Wiedmaier & Gay, Architects, has been changed to Wiedmaier & Gay, Maxwell E. Wright, Achitects. Offices will remain at 112 Madison avenue, where they have been for many years. The firm has specialized in apartment and commercial buildings for more than 40 years.

Wright, a member of the American Institute of Architects, as is Wiedmaier, is known widely in the contemporary design field. He was educated at New York City College and at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Detroit, where he was instructor in architectural subjects. He has had wide experience in the design of retail stores. A water colorist of distinction, his work has been shown in leading galleries of Detroit and other cities.

Present School Trend

Talmage C. Hughes, executive secretary of the Michigan Society of Architects, reports it was brought out at a recent architectural conference in Savannah, Ga., that the present trend in building schools is to lose the building in a large tract of land. He added:

"The group reported the average school built last year was on 20 acres . . . three or four times the size of the elementary and high school tracts of the past. The architects recommend structures spread over a 'comforable area' connected by side corridors, with related activities housed together.

"One-story schools are safest, the architects said, and 85 per cent of the school buildings constructed last year were without basements."

Alabama Guest

Eero Saarinen, immediate past president of the Detroit chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was the principal speaker at the banquet, concluding event of the Gulf States Regional Conference held in Montgomery, Ala., recently.

Taking as his subject, "The Co-ordination of Architecture and Construction," the speaker illustrated his lecture with color slides of the General Motors Research Center in Detroit, which he designed in collaboration with Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Architects and Engineers, of Detroit.

Joins AIA Chapter

Wilfred P. McLaughlin, 6 Monument Square Bldg., Grand Rapids, has become a member of the Western Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Elmer J. Manson, chapter president, announces.

Born in Niles, McLaughlin received his bachelor of science in architecture degree from the University of Michigan college of architecture in 1925. The following year he became registered to practice architecture in the state—by examination. His early experience was gained in the office of Benjamin & Benjamin, architects of Grand Rapids.

Making Studio Studies

Schley & Ward, architects, 16851 James Couzens Highway, are making studies for the proposed new WJR-TV studios. A few years ago the firm re-designed the existing WJR radio studios in the Fisher Bldg.

This firm also is planning and supervising large school projects and residential work.

APELSCOR to Elect

Howard P. Seelye, chairman of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Council of Registration (APELSCOR), announces the appointment of Donald Bingham (chairman), Harold G. Donnelly and Emil Lorch as a nominating committee to prepare slates of officers to serve the council in 1953.

Balloting will be by mail, and installation of officers will take place in January.

Seelye also says Donald E. Trefry again will be in charge of the annual ceremony to present certificates of registration to newly registered architects, engineers and surveyors, at the Engineering Society of Detroit, Nov. 8.

William E. Stirton, assistant to the president of Wayne University, will speak on "The Second Mile in Professional Achievement."

Purpose of the council is to co-operate with the Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, John J. Uicker of the University of Detroit, is secretary.

Industrial Plant Design Is Topic

Ann Arbor Architect Conference Plans

"Design of Industrial Plants" will be the chief topic for discussion at the Tenth Ann Arbor Conference for Architects to be held at the University of Michigan Thursday and Friday.

The conference will be sponsored by the College of Architecture and Design. Frederick Gutheim, assistant to the executive director of the American Institute of Architects, will be chairman.

The conference will draw manufacturers, architects and community planners, as well as city officials and others concerned with population movements and community affairs, from the east and midwest, Dean Wells I. Bennett, FAIA, of the college, said.

2-Day Session

The two-day program will include sessions on such topics as forces affecting industrial plant design, the function of the specialist concerned, and problems of community environment as affected by the plant when built and in operation.

Among conference planners will be G. B. Genther of Chicago, Victor Roterus of Washington, D. C., Jacqueline Tyrwhitt of Toronto and Eero Saarinen of Bloomfield Hills.

Others on Program

Other architects on the program will include J. S. Cromelin of Chicago, Alden Dow of Midland, Sol King, Clair W. Ditchy, Amedeo Leone and Minoru Yamasaki of Detroit and Roland Wank of New York.

Other specialists scheduled to speak are J. H. Blackmore of General Motors, Bruno Funaro and Adriano Olivetto of New York, Dr. Rensis Likert of Ann Arbor and Julian Ellsworth Garnsey of Princeton, N. J.

Sessions will be held in the Rackham Building, Ann Arbor. Community and industrial planners, manufacturers and architects, and any others interested in the topic are invited to attend.

Wax your linoleum for longest wear, and don't scrub it too often. Harsh scrubbing to remove imbedded dirt also will eventually wash away the linoleum. Manufacturers generally advise a hard-gloss wax polish and a damp mop for best results.

Along Realty Row:

Rise in Building Costs Halted, Expert Thinks

By PAT DENNIS

M. D. Eames, statistician for the Detroit firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., architects and engineers, states in the monthly building report for October issued by that organization:

"We seem to have reached another resting spell in the building cost climb . . . and it even may be the top . . . or close to it."

He points out that 20 years ago the index was 68, now it is 200 points higher, nearly four times the earlier figure, a rise of 300 per cent, and Eames adds:

"Or is it that our measure of value, which is the dollar, has been shortened in the same proportion? And, by the way, what is the true measure, the dollar or man-day production? Recalling those days of 1932, we remember that men had to work in order to keep their jobs. Competition for even the poorest wage was cruel. In 1952 unemployment is at its lowest total and jobs are competing for men."

Expressing the belief the building industry will continue to grow, Eames continued:

"Short-sighted pessimists take the falling off in defense expenditures to mean a depression is at hand, but they forget our population is increasing at a high rate, and that goods must be produced, and buildings and public works constructed to supply that increase.

"They also forget that as time passes there will be inevitable retirement of worn out and obsolete buildings which must be replaced by new structures. And, there also is the great back-log accumulated in the last 10 years, which we must reduce by a faster tempo in building."

Commenting on the financial situation, the report concludes with:

"Some bankers see trouble ahead because of a slight tightening in money, but so important an institution as the National City Bank of New York is not of that opinion.

"We believe the bank's views are most likely to be correct and that activities now being set in motion by the building programs of leading insurance companies are worthy of imitation by business generally."

Cleveland Producers Hear Miehls Monday

George H. Miehls, president of Albert Kahn Associated Architects & Engineers, will address the Monday noon meeting of the Producers Council in Cleveland on "Evolution of Industrial Construction."

The meeting is being sponsored by the Cleveland Chapter of the Producers Council, Inc., a division of the national organization of manufacturers of building materials and equipment.

Shifts Membership

S. Alexander Nurmi, AIA of Flint, has transferred his membership in the American Institute of Architects from the Detroit Chapter to the Saginaw Valley Chapter.

A native of Finland, Nurmi received his early education in that country. He then came to America and entered the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Design where he received his B. S. in architecture in 1932, his B. S. in education in 1933 and his M. S. in architecture in 1941.

He spent the following five years in teaching and working, became registered as an architect in 1946, when he entered his own practice.

Perry Now With Meyer

Leo I. Perry, AIA, recently elected treasurer of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, is now with Earl G. Meyer, Architect, 806 Farwell Bldg.

Perry, who received his bachelor of science in architecture degree from the University of Michigan in 1924, worked in Lima, Peru, in 1925, traveled and studied in France and England in 1928. He had been a partner in the firm of Ditchy - Farley - Perry, Architects, and later was connected with Ralph R. Calder, architect. He was a lieutenant commander in the USNR during World War II.

Besides being a member of the AIA, he is in the Michigan Society or Architects and a charter member of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Ponder Problems

Buford Pickens, AIA formerly of the Wayne University art department and now head of the architectural department of Tulane University in New Orleans, will be a panel member of a correlation conference on housing and building conducted by the Building Research Advisory Board at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C., Nov. 18-19.

"Housing and Building in Hot-Humid and Hot-Dry Climates" will be the subject and the program will deal with architectural problems of building in hot climates, together with mechanical requirements, living conditions, structures and materials under such conditions.

Also among the scheduled speakers is Ralph Walker, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and past president of the AIA, who is known widely in Detroit, having appeared as a speaker before the Detroit Chapter, AIA.

Back to Seattle

Frank Stanton, AIA, who had been employed in the Detroit offices Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, architects and engineers, has returned to his home in Seattle, Wash., where he will resume his architectural practice.

Stanton received his architectural education at the University of Michigan, his early experience in the office of Detroit architects, after which he went to Puget Sound and established his practice.

Directors to Meet

Leo M. Bauer of Detroit, president of the Michigan Society of Architects, says its board of directors will meet at the Dearborn Inn at 2:30 p. m. Dec. 11 and continue through dinner.

The board's annual meeting and election of officers will be held at 3 p. m. and continue through dinner on Dec. 10 at the Detroit Athletic Club, Bauer adds.

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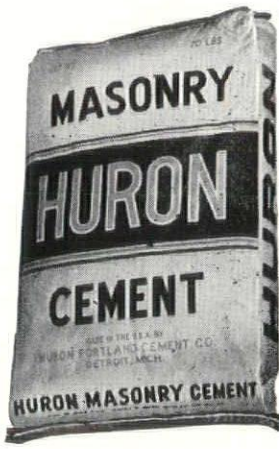

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House Built to Be Sunny

JOHN K. CROSS, A.I.A., designed this house for himself and his wife. Problem: A 70x108-foot corner lot limiting building to 46-foot width. See how garage is enhanced by connecting entrance court.

BY LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN
Living Section Editor

What do you ask of a house? Shelter? Convenience? Comfort?

When Mr. and Mrs. John K. Cross built their new home in Grosse Pointe Farms, they expected something more. A "sunny atmosphere" was first on their list.

And being an architect, Cross knew how to get it. Here's how he enlisted the points of the compass to achieve his goal:

SOUTH. "This was the obvious location for the garden," the architect says. "It followed that the living-dining area should occupy the entire rear of the house, with large windows for the garden view and the sunlight that my wife and I wanted so much."

WEST. "The dining space was placed towards the west in order to enjoy the many beautiful sunsets."

EAST. "The morning sun would reach the two bedrooms if they were placed at the front of the house."

NORTH. "This was a good spot for the garage, where it could act as a buffer against wintry blasts."

To minimize the narrow front of the outjutting garage, Cross introduced a unique feature. This is an entrance court or patio, seven feet wide and 23 feet long, between garage and guestroom.

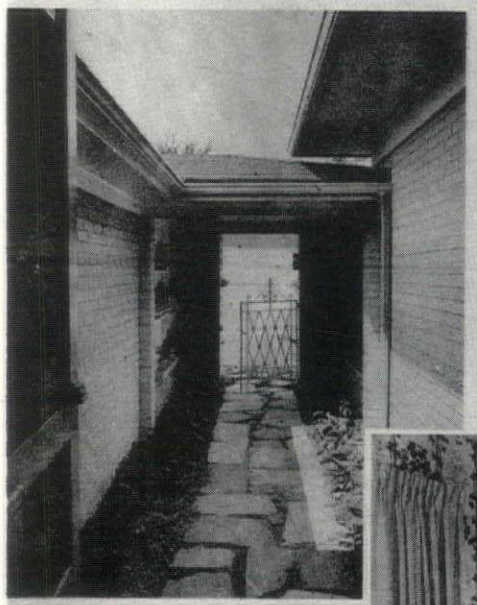
Entered from Stephens Road through a wrought iron gate, this court is a charming approach to the living quarters. (Can you picture it? Gray brick walls lined with yellow and green plant pots, white iron gate, greenstone walk, and—ahead of you—the bittersweet-painted entrance door.)

This device links the jutting garage to the house structure, the architect explains, and the garage in turn shields the court from the weather. For these sun-worshippers, their entrance court is also a sunshine-trap.

In planning interiors, it is not surprising that the Crosses chose yellow. Nor is it surprising that Susina deMarco was their decorator. Miss deMarco since grade-school days has been called "Sunny" by her friends, and she can top anyone in enthusiasm for the sunshine color.

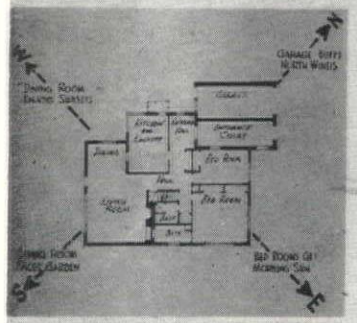
"Yellow has a buoyancy that you don't find in other hues," the decorator says. "And it's a good marrying color; it unites other colors and brings out the best in all of them."

Used as a theme throughout the house, sunny yellow is combined with lettuce green and greige with accents of bittersweet and black.



LEFT: Entrance court sheltered from winds, open to sunshine. Note yellow plant pots marshalled against gray brick walls.

BELOW: A sunny room welcomes arriving guests. Draperies, couch cover and ceiling are yellow. Six-foot windows have sills 21 inches from floor.



OBSERVE HOW the entrance hall offers direct access to any part of the house through pleasant five-foot halls. Bathrooms, closets and stairways are grouped together at the core of the floor plan.

Free Press photos by Andy Piefchan

COLOR SCHEME of the Sunny House is established in living room: greige carpet, lettuce green wallpaper, and brick fireplace wall painted bittersweet. Furniture covers: greige, yellow, bittersweet.

SUNNY KITCHEN has a corner sink with plant well under the window; Yellow cabinets sandwiched between lettuce green ceiling and deeper green linoleum. Cottontails frisk on gray wallpaper. Note Dutch door.

Idea Checklist

Learn something useful about room arrangement.

Pick up a new color scheme.

Consider the advantages of an entrance court.

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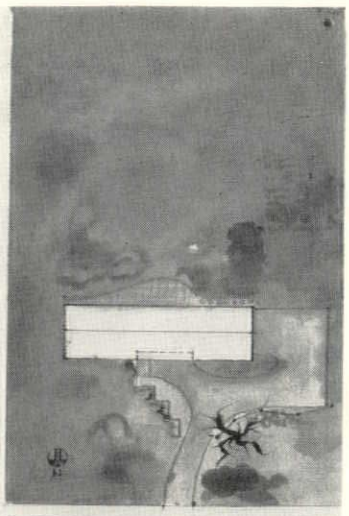

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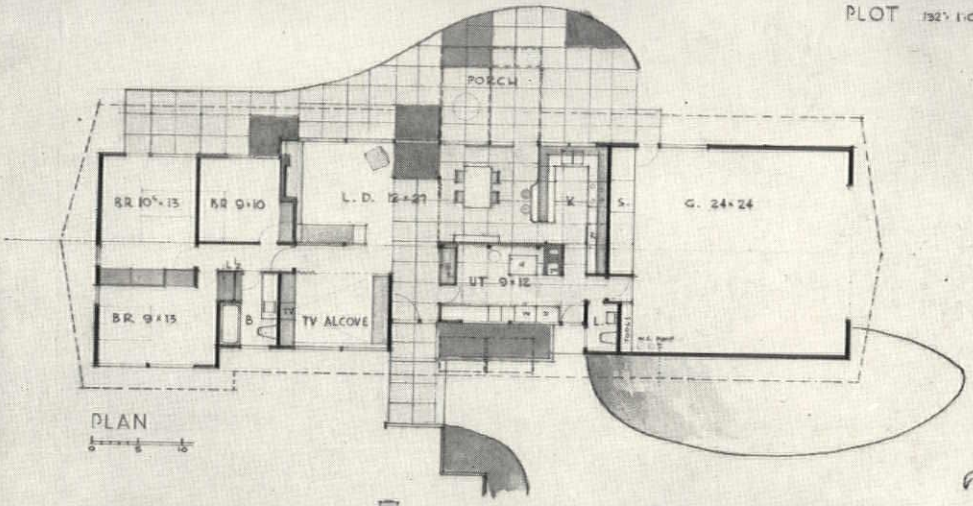

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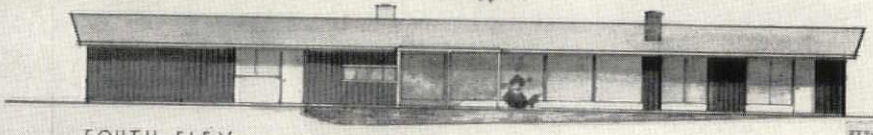

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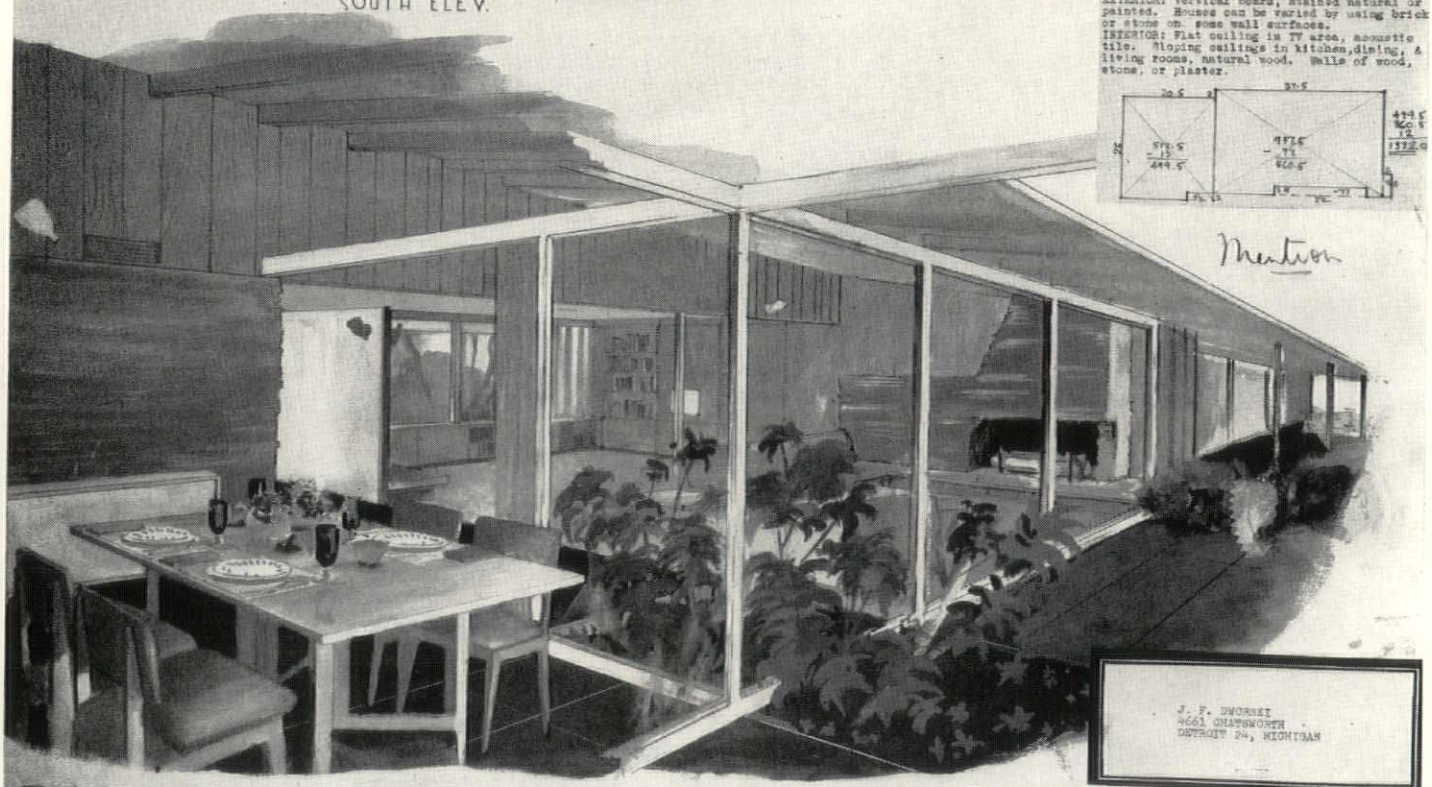

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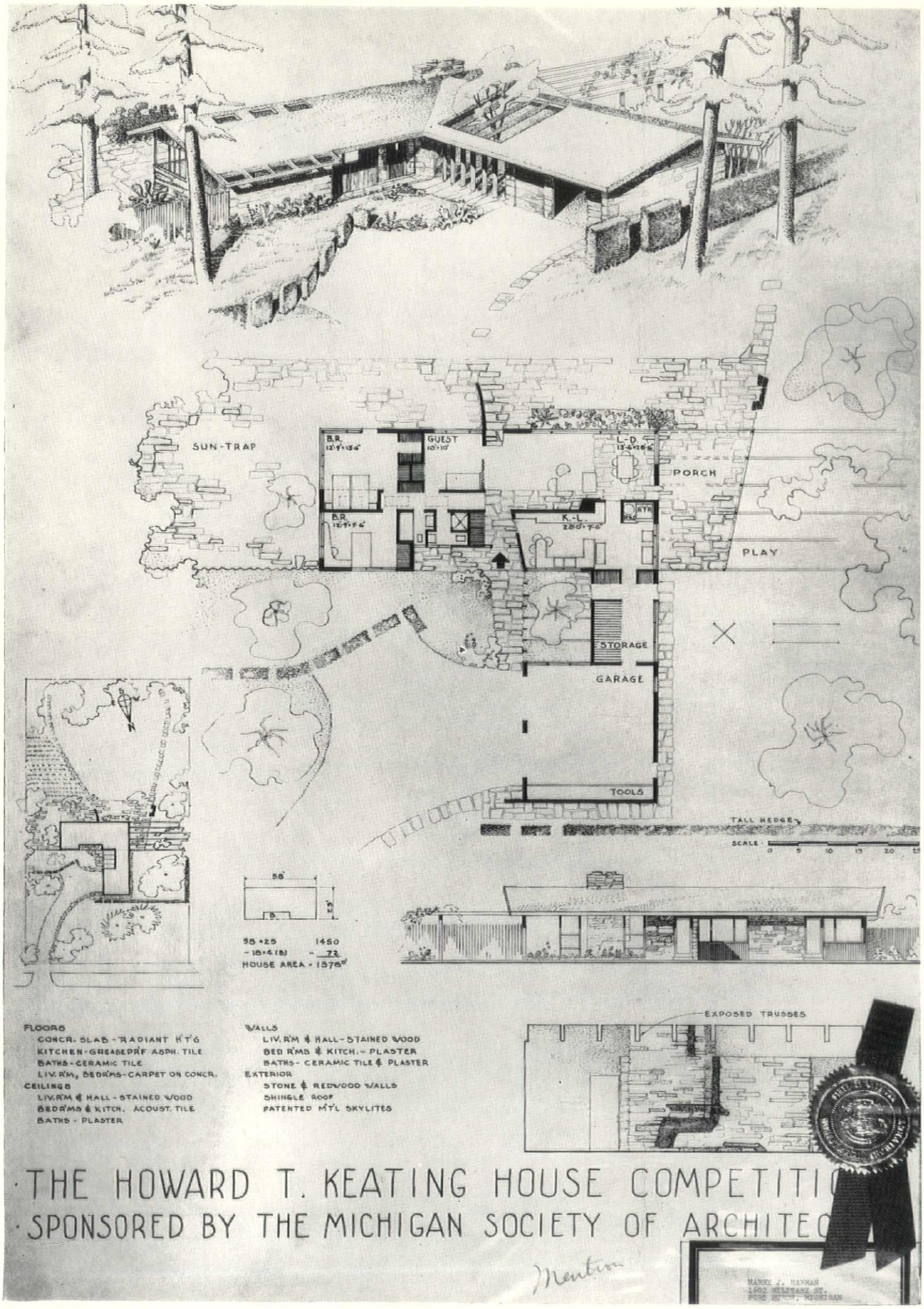

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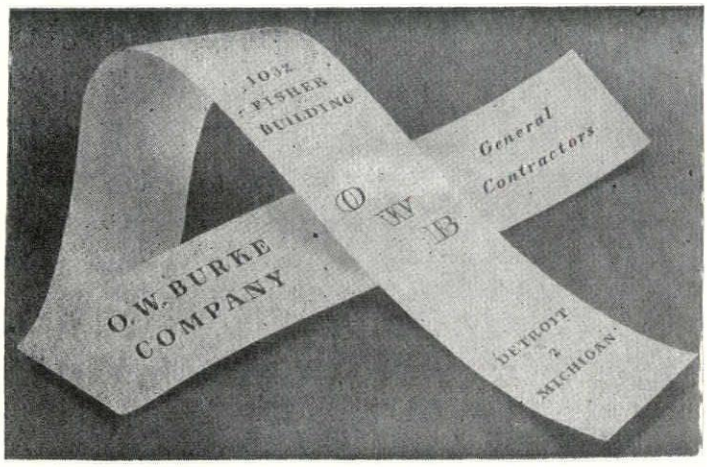

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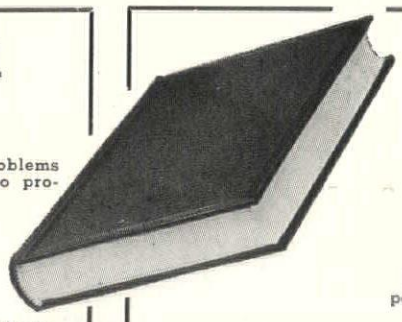

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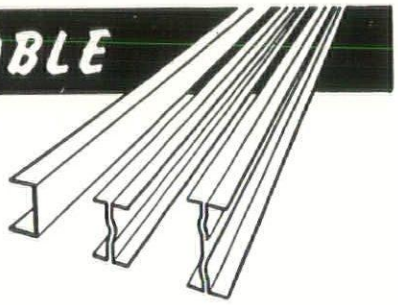

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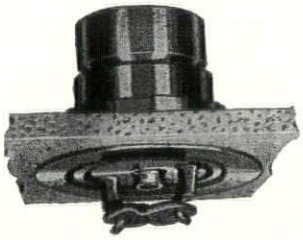

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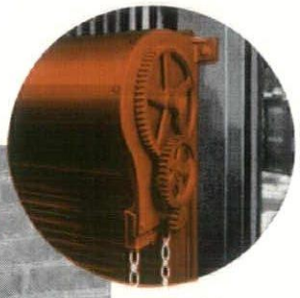

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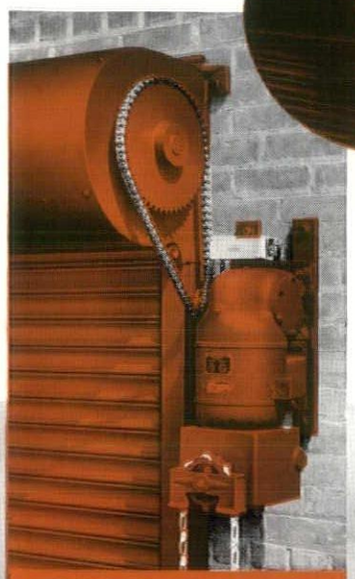

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